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I N S I D E

NATION



Two more bodies are recovered
from a massive mudslide in Wash-
ington state. **> PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin,
one of Hollywood's highest profile
couples, are separating. **> PAGE 21**

Govt payment sought on \$200K for La Fiesta lease. PAGE 2
Judge dismisses charges vs man accused of burglary. PAGE 5

Casino revision bill Senate-bound

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a four-hour debate, the House of Representatives passed last night a bill that amends the problematic provisions of the now 6-day-old Saipan casino law and specifies how casino-related funding will be used.

House members introduced and debated at least eight floor amendments to the bill, six of which were adopted between 3:46pm and 6:52pm.

By a vote of 13-7, House Bill 18-182, House Draft 6 passed at 7:03pm.

The bill, authored by House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), now goes to the Senate.

The Senate may act on the bill this af-

ternoon; if it passes, it is expected to be transmitted immediately to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for action.

Inos signed "with reservation" the original casino bill into Public Law 18-38 on March 21, with assurance from the House and Senate to approve 12 sets of agreed-upon recommendations that take into account the concerns also of the gen-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), right, confers with Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), while Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), left, looks on, at yesterday's House session on Capital Hill. Maratita introduced a bill yesterday to repeal in its entirety Public Law 18-38, which legalized casino gaming on Saipan.

Maratita moves to scrap casino law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) prefled yesterday a bill repealing in its entirety the now 6-day-old Saipan casino law, saying the decision whether or not to legalize casino gaming on Saipan "should be left to the people to vote by ballot."

Saipan voters have already twice rejected proposals to legalize casinos on the island, and lawmakers should "yield to the wishes and desires of their constituents," Maratita said.

As to the lack of public hearings on the casino bill, Maratita said the Legislature should "operate in terms of transparency, not secrecy."

"We should uphold the Open Government Act, both the letter and spirit. Public Law 18-38 represents neither transparency nor public input. It ig-

See MARATITA on Page 4

Satellite spots 122 possible objects in search

By TODD PITMAN and ROB GRIFFITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PERTH, Australia (AP)—Malaysia says a satellite has captured images of 122 objects in the Indian Ocean that might be from the missing plane.

Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein says the objects were seen close

to where three other satellites previously detected objects.

He said Wednesday the sightings together are "the most credible lead that we have."

Hishammuddin said the images were taken Sunday and were relayed by French-based Airbus Defense and Space.

Hishammuddin says the objects

ranged in length from one meter (yard) to 23 meters (25 yards).

Various floating objects have been spotted by planes and satellites, but none has been retrieved or identified.

The desperate, multinational hunt for Flight 370 resumed Wednesday across a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean after fierce winds and high waves that had

forced a daylong halt eased considerably.

A total of 12 planes and five ships from the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand were participating in the search, hoping to find even a single piece of the Malaysia Airlines jet that could offer tangible evidence of a crash.

Malaysia announced earlier this week that a mathematical analysis of the final

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PICKS OF THE WEEK



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Local

Govt payment sought on \$200K for La Fiesta lease

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital LLC is asking the government to pay its \$200,000 lease for the former La Fiesta Mall property for fiscal year 2013, one of the government's outstanding obligations that the Inos administration said yesterday will be satisfied.

The government needs to pay another \$200,000 for the La Fiesta property lease for fiscal year 2014, but this is not due until Sept. 30.

Bridge Capital bought interest in the La Fiesta property in March 2007, while the government owns the former La Fiesta Mall structure.

Michael Ernest, a registered lobbyist and counsel for Bridge Capital, told members of the House of Representatives during a session yesterday afternoon that Bridge Capital hopes that the annual \$200,000 appropriation for the La Fiesta

lease will be restored, now that the government is preparing a supplemental budget.

"We respectfully request that the Commonwealth honors its obligation," Ernest told House members during the public comment period.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration "is currently in the process of exploring viable options to make the La Fiesta property an asset instead of liability."

"Part of this realignment plan will include satisfying outstanding obligations," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bridge Capital's Ernest also made the same request for lease payment during last week's Senate session, lawmakers said.

In the original fiscal years 2013 and 2014 budget submissions from the governor, \$200,000 was set aside for the annual La Fiesta lease payment, but the Legislature—specifically

ly the Senate—zeroed out the account. Later, the Legislature said the governor can always reprogram funds to pay for the land lease.

As earlier warned, the government is facing default on the land lease payment.

The Inos administration has been seeking investors interested in revitalizing the former La Fiesta mall in San Roque, including issuing a request for proposal but so far, no successful negotiation has occurred.

The CNMI government has been spending \$200,000 every year to pay for the La Fiesta land lease yet it has not been earning any dime from it since at least 2004 when the mall closed.

Under the Inos administration's plan, any investor taking on the project would also take over the annual land lease payment of \$200,000.

But because there is no investor yet, the government still has to budget for the lease payment.

\$11K fine for airport curbside parking violators, says CPA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Motorists who park their vehicles at the curbside of the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport while waiting for their guests are now barred from doing so, per regulations of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration.

To impress the importance of this rule, the Commonwealth Port Authority warned that a fine of \$11,000 would be imposed on violators.

CPA executive director Mary-

Ann Lizama said the public needs to be made aware of this following revelation that TSA has made this clear to the ports authority at a recent meeting.

"TSA has a regulation in place that prohibits parking on the curbside; it is only meant for active loading and unloading. Ports police officers have been vigilant in ensuring that this TSA regulation is enforced," said Lizama, adding that CPA management has been meeting with TSA on this issue.

Lizama pointed out that failure to comply may result in the

penalty to CPA at a minimum of \$11,000 per vehicle. In turn, CPA will pass on this penalty to the person who violates the rule.

"The public has to be made aware that we no longer have the luxury of parking on the curbside to wait on passengers. The customers/clients utilizing the ATM are also being told that they must park at the main parking in order to use the ATM," added Lizama.

The TSA regulation, she added, applies to all vehicles, including taxis and car rental clients.

CDA affirms suspension of CUC payments

Understanding the cash-flow situation of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., coupled with the potential ripple effects of continued power rate hikes, the Commonwealth Development Authority agreed to suspend any payments from CUC relating to the millions of preferred stocks and dividends due the development authority.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* about the decision yesterday, saying it was made to prevent additional rate increases for CUC customers.

Years ago, CDA loaned out \$45 million to CUC for its many projects. The utility agency never made any payment to this loan, which was later converted to "preferred stock" that entitles CDA to a stake or ownership of CUC's equity, equivalent to \$45 million. This conversion agreement was signed in May 2009, with a guaranteed 2 percent dividend to be paid every year to CDA.

Yet even then, CUC has not paid any dividends to CDA, Sablan said.

CDA comptroller Donnie

Militante confirmed that as of fiscal year 2013, CUC's unpaid accrued dividends now total \$3.6 million. In CDA's books, its collectibles from the corporation is now at \$48.6 million, including the \$45 million loan that was converted into equity.

Saipan Tribune learned that of the \$3.6 million accrued annual dividends, \$2.7 million was deferred in fiscal years 2010-2012 and \$900,000 is for fiscal year 2013. This is supposedly payable at \$180,000 every year.

"CDA's ownership at CUC is basically a preferred position, which means we have a \$45 million stake in its assets and capital account. From the standpoint of CDA, they still owe us [that amount]," explained Sablan.

He said that CUC's poor cash flow is to blame for the delayed payments. CDA, he said, understands that the corporation needs some help.

"We understand that if they were to make this payment they will have to increase rates, which will affect the same people we're trying to help in our

community," said Sablan.

Sablan admits that it remains unknown for now how far CDA's patience can stretch.

"We're taking a position that we have to find other alternatives to make sure their payment to CDA will not trigger rate increases for customers. We do not want CUC to increase rates simply because they owe that money to CDA," he said.

Sablan said it would be "anti-economic" of CDA if it will allow CUC to seek a rate increase just so it could satisfy its debt with CDA.

Sablan admits that the suspension of payments is an "informal" agreement among parties, which means the original agreement signed in 2009 officially stands.

Sablan welcomes the automatic membership of the CDA board chairman in the newly revived CUC board. That way, he said, CDA's interest would be fully protected as CDA would have access to all information and policies that would be instituted at CUC. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Ayuyu appeals to hotels: Be part of the solution

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Joe Ayuyu, owner and president of McDonald's Saipan, appealed yesterday to the CNMI's hotel industry to reconsider their position on the proposed standby charge and hook up to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power grid.

"It's time to make some sacrifices. These hotels have been here for many years and are part of the community. So I urge our tourism industry now: be part of the solution for our community," Ayuyu said yesterday.

On the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's table is CUC's proposed \$20 kW per month standby charge for large commercial customers that rely on their own generators for their daily operation and only use CUC power when their engines

are non-operational or undergoing maintenance.

CUC earlier said that if its proposed "standby charge" is disapproved, this will result in CUC seeking a further rate increase to cover the shortfall.

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands and the Saipan Facilities Management Association strongly oppose the charge, saying it is not reasonable, is unaffordable, and untimely as the tourism industry is still recovering.

According to Ayuyu, however, the tourism industry—particularly hotels—have long been enjoying "some sweet deals" from the government. He cited the government's qualifying certificate program that grants tax breaks to businesses like hotels and favorable terms on their land lease agreements. He de-

scribed the lease terms of these businesses as much cheaper than what is imposed in other jurisdictions like Guam.

"I fully support the tourism industry. But we, as businesses, must also provide some fairness to the community. Yes, we're aiming for profits...but our concern should be more than that," said Ayuyu.

Like any other businesses, Ayuyu said his company has been paying a lot for utilities. He shared that his company has been running its own generators for many years to ensure uninterrupted power supply for its operation.

"At first, I was hesitant. It was really a hard decision. But I know I have to do it [hook up to CUC] because in the long run, this island will be relying on our CUC. So I did my part, I sacrificed because I know it will bring something good for the community," he said,

pointing out CUC's need to stabilize its resources so it could continue operate and progress.

He acknowledged witnessing the grave impact of constant power outages but believes that CUC has made significant strides that must be acknowledged by the community. Evident, he said, is the minimal out-

ages and the much improved, more reliable service.

Since he started paying a higher rate for power as a result of hooking up to the CUC grid, Ayuyu said he has learned to become a better businessman—creative, resourceful, and responsible—describing it as a "blessing in disguise."

Ayuyu said that without any help from businesses, CUC's the long-term plans for the CNMI will not be achieved.

Ayuyu said it's about time that the tourism industry step up to the plate and do its share for the "people of the CNMI."

Under CUC's proposal, large customers who want to avoid paying the standby charge will have to physically disconnect from the CUC grid.

Judge orders detective to give OAG files in Taitano's case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio ordered police detective Therese S. Kintoki yesterday to provide the Office of the Attorney General with documents relating to the case against Nestor C. Taitano, a habitual offender who was recently arrested for allegedly throwing rocks at a store in Dandan and threatening to kill everyone, including federal court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Kim-Tenorio gave Kintoki, the lead investigator in the case, to hand over the documents to the OAG no later than noon yesterday.

The judge issued the order at the request of assistant attorney general Chemere McField.

At yesterday's supposed pre-

liminary hearing for Taitano, McField asked the court to issue an order directing Kintoki to explain why she should not be held in contempt for not turning over the documents to the OAG. She also asked the court to reset the preliminary hearing.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer did not object to McField's requests.

Kim-Tenorio reset the preliminary hearing to today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

Last March 17, the Superior Court's clerk of court issued a subpoena at the OAG's request, ordering Kintoki to bring her case file on Taitano last March 21, three days before yesterday's scheduled preliminary hearing.

It was not clear why the detective failed to submit the documents to the OAG.

Police responded to Jin Li

Store in Dandan on March 14 after receiving a report that a man, later identified as Taitano, threw rocks at the main entrance and entered the store. The suspect then threw more rocks at a cashier and her two co-workers. The victims were not hit but some items were shattered.

Police learned that Taitano threatened to kill his mother, some family members, and everyone else. He also allegedly made a threat to kill Judge Manglona.

KIM VS QUICHOCHO

Still no verdict after fourth day

The juror who reportedly figured in a car accident showed up yesterday in federal court for the fourth day of jury deliberations in businesswoman Jung Ja Kim's racketeering lawsuit against Ramon K. Quichocho, his wife Frances, his law firm, and their Karissa LLC company.

The nine jurors, including an alternate, will resume their deliberations today, Thursday, as they failed yet again to reach a verdict yesterday.

There were no jury deliberations on Tuesday as U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy dismissed the jury after one ju-

ror figured in a car accident and failed to show up. Kennedy, however, ordered the jurors to return to court yesterday to continue their deliberations.

At 8:05am yesterday, Kennedy informed the parties in the case that the juror who was absent on Tuesday would be appearing but running late.

When the juror appeared, Kennedy reconvened the hearing at 8:40am. She asked the juror if he was ready to continue with deliberations and he affirmed.

The magistrate judge then ordered the jurors to continue their deliberations.

The trial began on Feb. 3. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Search on for 'Pinoy Super Mom 2014'

The United Filipino Organization is launching its search for the "Pinoy Super Mom 2014" contest in celebration of the 116th Philippine Independence Day on June 14 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

UFO president Annamae Adaza said the competition will give recognition to all mothers who work hard for their family as well as honor women of power, women who are outspoken, can express themselves, and are career-oriented.

"We want to give recognition to hard-working mothers and give the CNMI community a different kind of entertainment," said Adaza. "It's about time to show the CNMI that mothers can create a great show as well."

UFO is only looking for 15 contestants on a first come, first serve basis, "so you don't have to wait for the deadline," Adaza said.

The Pinoy Super Mom 2014 is open to women between the age of 25 and 50 years old.

Prizes will be \$800 for first place, \$500 for second, and \$300 for third. Along with the Top 3 places, the competition

will also have eight special awards, winners of whom will also receive cash prizes as well.

Contestants will be judged based on four criteria: professional costume, talent competition, evening gown competition, and a question-and-answer portion.

Those interested can get application forms at Saipan Music & Dance Studio in Garapan. Deadline for submission of applications will be on April 30, 2014.

The UFO is well known for hosting a variety of competitions. Past events that were successfully organized by UFO include the Miss Pusong Pinoy 2013, Super Pinoy Gay Models in June 2013, That's My Tomboy in December 2013, and the recent Little Miss Pusong Pinoy beauty pageant in February 2014.

For more details about the contest, call or text Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event coordinator/director Ernie Molina at 789-8212, or Ester Sablan at 789-5553. (Jayson Camacho)



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Interior official on island for mineral rights patent, grants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular areas Lori Faeth is currently on island and her meeting today with Gov. Eloy S. Inos would pave the way

for Interior to release the patent conveying to the CNMI oil, gas, and mineral deposit rights within the 3-mile submerged lands now controlled by the Commonwealth.

Faeth and Inos will hold a joint news briefing this morn-

ing. They will be joined by Interior Office of Insular Affairs director Nik Pula.

The visiting Interior officials are also expected to award grants to the CNMI once again. This afternoon, Faeth and Pula are also expected to meet with

Public School System officials.

On Jan. 15, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation temporarily withholding the transfer to the CNMI of submerged lands around five islands that are either part of a national marine monument or

under lease to the U.S. military. After this, Interior is supposed to give the patent conveying to the CNMI all rights, titles, and interests of the United States in deposits of oil, gas, and other minerals in the 3-mile submerged lands surrounding nine of its 14 islands.

The governor needs to sign

off on the Interior document to signal his acceptance of the rights, on behalf of the CNMI.

Once the final patent conveying mineral rights is done, the CNMI can then seek out or entertain prospective seafloor mining companies. Seafloor mining can potentially infuse millions of dollars into CNMI coffers.

Coast Guard releases investigation of tuna boat sinking

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard released the results of its investigation into the June 2010 sinking of the U.S. flagged Distant Water Tuna Fleet vessel *Majestic Blue* 2,100 miles southwest of Hawaii, Friday.

The investigation revealed 22 crewmembers safely abandoned ship and were rescued by a sister ship but the master and chief engineer remain missing and presumed deceased.

The investigation was unable to determine the exact cause of flooding that origi-

nated in the steering compartment where steel work was previously performed during an overseas shipyard visit.

However, the investigation determined that the immediate secondary cause of the sinking was due to a shipboard practice of leaving watertight doors open. This caused continued progressive flooding through the open doors throughout the vessel.

In addition, response to the flooding was hampered because the engineering of-

ficers could not read or communicate in English and were unfamiliar with emergency response procedures. Under special legislation afforded to the Distant Water Tuna Fleet only the vessel's captain needed to be a U.S. citizen.

The Coast Guard investigating officer recommended and the Coast Guard commandant concurred that a large fishing vessel of this size should receive additional oversight.

"A benefit of sharing a report of investigation is an opportu-

nity for all fishermen and mariners to learn something from this casualty," said Cmdr. Jonathan Maiorine, chief of inspections and investigations for the Fourteenth Coast Guard District. "By reevaluating their own onboard procedures for training, communications and emergency drills we hope to prevent similar tragedies in the future."

The entire report of investigation is available for download on the Coast Guard Homeport website under the investigations tab. (USCG)

SATELLITE

From Page 1

known satellite signals from the plane showed that it had crashed in the sea, taking the lives of all 239 people on board.

The new data greatly reduced the search zone, but it remains huge—an area estimated at 1.6 million square kilometers (622,000 square miles), about the size of Alaska.

"We're throwing everything we have at this search," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Nine Network television on Wednesday.

"This is about the most inaccessible spot imaginable. It's thousands of kilometers from anywhere," he later told Seven Network television. He vowed that "we will do what we can to solve this riddle."

In Beijing, some families held out a glimmer of hope their loved ones might somehow have survived. About two-thirds of the missing were Chinese, and their relatives have lashed out at Malaysia for essentially declaring their family members dead without any physical evidence of the plane's remains. Many also believe that the Malaysian officials have not been transparent or swift in communicating information with them about the status of the search.

Wang Chunjiang, whose brother was on the plane, said he felt "very conflicted."

"We want to know the truth, but we are afraid the debris of

the plane should be found," he said while waiting at a hotel near the Beijing airport for a meeting with Malaysian officials. "If they find debris, then our last hope would be dashed. We will not have even the slightest hope."

China, which now has Chinese warships and an icebreaker in the search zone, has been intent on supporting the interests of the Chinese relatives of passengers, backing their demands for detailed information on how Malaysia concluded the jet went down in the southern Indian Ocean.

That also is the likely reason why Chinese authorities—normally extremely wary of any spontaneous demonstrations that could undermine social stability—permitted a rare protest Tuesday outside the Malaysian embassy in Beijing, during which relatives chanted slogans, threw water bottles and briefly tussled with police who kept them separated from a swarm of journalists.

China dispatched a special envoy to Kuala Lumpur, Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui, who met Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and other top officials Wednesday, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The plane's bizarre disappearance March 8 shortly after it took off from Kuala Lumpur en route to Beijing has proven to be one of the biggest mysteries in aviation.

Investigators have ruled out nothing so far—including me-

chanical or electrical failure, hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or issues related to the mental health of the pilots or someone else on board.

The search for the wreckage and the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders will be a major challenge. It took two years to find the black box from an Air France jet that went down in the Atlantic Ocean on a flight from Rio de Janeiro to Paris in 2009, and searchers knew within days where the crash site was.

There is a race against the clock to find Flight 370's black boxes, whose battery-powered "pinger" could stop sending signals within two weeks. The batteries are designed to last at least a month.

On Wednesday, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is coordinating the southern search operation Malaysia's behalf, said a U.S. Towed Pinger Locator arrived in Perth along with Bluefin-21 underwater drone. The equipment will be fitted to the Australian naval ship, the Ocean Shield, but AMSA could not say when they would be deployed.

Various pieces of floating objects have been spotted by planes and satellite, but none have been retrieved or identified. Wednesday's search focused on an 80,000 square kilometer (31,000 square miles) swathe of ocean about 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) southwest of Perth.

David Ferreira, an oceanographer at the University of

Reading in Britain, said little is known about the detailed topography of the seabed in the general area where the plane is believed to have crashed.

"We know much more about the surface of the moon than we do about the ocean floor in that part of the Indian Ocean," Ferreira said.

Kerry Sieh, the director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore, said the seafloor in the search area is relative flat, with dips and crevices similar to that of the part of the Atlantic Ocean where the Air France wreckage was found.

He said he wouldn't expect much current on the seafloor, and believes any large pieces of the plane would likely stay put once they have completely sunk. But recovering any part of the plane will be tough because of the sheer depth of the ocean—much of it between about 3,000-4,500 meters (10,000-15,000 feet) in the search area—and inhospitable conditions on the surface where intense winds and high swells are common.

"This is a really rough piece of ocean, which is going to be a terrific issue," Sieh said. "I worry that people carrying out the rescue mission are going to get into trouble."

Australia's Bureau of Meteorology warned that weather was expected to deteriorate again Thursday with a cold front passing through the search area that bring rain thunderstorms, low clouds and strong winds.

MARATITA

From Page 1

nored the peoples' will. It should be repealed," Maratita added.

She cited, for example, closed-door meetings involving only certain lawmakers regarding the proposed amendments.

Even the amendment bill, she said, "did not have the benefit of a public hearing or input from

the community."

Maratita introduced House Bill 18-183 only a few minutes after House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) introduced HB 18-182, which seeks to amend the casino law, Public Law 18-38.

Demapan's casino amendment bill, however, passed the House last night and could also pass the Senate as early as today.

Before the session adjourned

past 7 last night, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) announced that Maratita's bill is numbered HB 18-183 and referred it to the Ways and Means Committee for review.

Maratita's bill is co-authored by Reps. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), who all voted against Saipan casino legislation.

In her bill, Maratita said that

for every \$1 revenue that gambling generates, taxpayers must pay at least \$3 in increased criminal justice costs, social welfare expenses, high regulatory costs, and increased infrastructure expenditures.

"The purpose of this act... is to repeal Public Law 18-38 in its entirety, and to leave the decision whether to legalize casinos on Saipan to the people of Saipan," she added.

CASINO

From Page 1

eral public.

The seven House members who voted "no" to the casino amendment bill last night were vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), and Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian).

They voted "no" not because they didn't like the amendments to correct the flaws in the original bill but because they do not want casino gaming on Saipan in the first place, or they want Saipan voters to decide that through the ballot.

Besides the bill's author Demapan, the 12 others who voted "yes" to the casino amendment bill were Reps. Antonio Agulto (Ind-Saipan), Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), George Camacho (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Christopher Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Felicidad Ogumoto (R-Saipan), Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Teresita Santos (R-Rota), Mario Taitano, (Ind-Saipan) and Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

One of Conner's adopted floor amendment adds a new subsection that bars members of the 18th Legislature and their immediate families from being directly employed at the casino or as its independent contractors for a period of five years from the issuance of the casino license.

Another of Conner's proposed floor amendment was thumbed down—to allow casino operators on Tinian and Rota to be automatically granted a qualifying certificate for a total abatement for 25 years.

The new casino law does not allow the Saipan casino license holder to avail of the qualifying certificate program.

During debate, Demapan asked Conner about Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's annual license fee. Conner said it's \$500,000.

"Why would we give them [Tinian and Rota casino operators] QC when their annual license fee is \$500,000, while the Saipan casino license holder is required to pay \$15 million in annual license fee and is not qualified for QC?"

Demapan asked.

For too long, casino gaming is legal only on Tinian and Rota. With Inos' signing of PL 18-38 on Friday, casino gaming is now also legal on Saipan.

One of Roman Benavente's proposed floor amendments was adopted, which added the Public School System to the list of programs and services that will be funded by gross revenue tax from the Saipan casino industry.

This is the same source of funding, under PL 18-38, for the payment of the retirement contribution interest payment, the medical referral program, subsidy to indigent hospital patients, subsidy to help lower utility rates, and payment for land compensation judgments and other land taking.

At the beginning of the House session, concerned citizens Ed Propst and Florence Sablan addressed House members on the casino amendment bill.

Propst and Sablan pointed out that lawmakers didn't allow for transparency in the process of handling the original casino bill and the amendment bill, for not holding public hearings.

Propst suggested a suitability review and hearing that he said will result in a win-win situation for everyone. He said by pursuing this process, the public and the government would know the investor's financial background, its principals and their dealings, their undertakings, among other things.

Sablan, for her part, said that by rushing the passage of the casino bill and the amendment bill, "it's like you don't respect voters who voted it down twice."

"Why should we vote for you in the next election?" she asked.

Shortly after the public comment, lawmakers introduced their bills, including Demapan's HB 18-182.

The bill addresses the 12 sets of agreed-upon changes to the original casino bill, between the governor and the Legislature. Other provisions were added to specify where the casino-related revenues would go.

The amendment bill addresses tax rebate restoration, cuts in tax benefits for the exclusive casino licensee, 25-percent pension cut restoration, payment of interest on retirement contribution withdrawals, lower utility rates and land compensation payments.

But Maratita also introduced a bill, HB 18-183, repealing in its entirety PL 18-38. The bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee for review.

Judge dismisses charges vs man accused of burglary

»Kaipat apologizes for failure to submit witness list on time

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Assistant attorney general Jacinta Kaipat yesterday apologized for the government's failure to submit a witness list before the deadline and moved to dismiss the case against Kyle K. Cabael, who is facing charges of burglarizing a dive shop.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed the case against Cabael with prejudice, which means the case cannot be reopened.

Cabael was charged with burglary, theft, conspiracy, and criminal mischief.

Camacho said there are reasons for the court to issue a deadline and that the government

failed to meet that deadline.

The judge gave Kaipat an opportunity to address the jurors before dismissing the case.

"I want to stand before you and apologize sincerely on behalf of the government," Kaipat told jurors.

She also apologized to Camacho, defense counsel Colin Thompson, Cabael, to the peo-

ple in court, and to the people of the CNMI. She said the court issued a deadline for the government to submit a witness list, but unfortunately they missed the deadline.

"In our system, it is about what is fair and just. We must uphold that," said Kaipat, adding that she is taking full responsibility because the jurors

put their lives on hold to come to court for the case.

"I humbly apologize. I took full responsibility for this. Please forgive me, please forgive me for my mistake. And I apologize to my colleagues," said Kaipat, who was assisted in the case by assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda.

Thompson did not address the court.

The burglary happened at Past Time Dive Shop in Supe on Oct. 7, 2012. Stolen were 21 scuba tanks, diving suits, and fins.

Cabael and Franco Singeru were arrested in January 2013 after police investigation identified them as the culprits.

Police recovered 17 of the 21 scuba tanks, one diving suit, and

a pair of fins from the Sky Garage Sale in San Jose.

After dismissing the charges yesterday, Camacho told Cabael that he is discharged from the case but that he is still under detention for his pending case—another burglary and theft incident at the Monte Vista Hotel in Upper Navy Hill last month.

Police said that one of the rooms was burglarized and stolen were the occupant's \$1,000 cash, Korean currency, Korean bank checks, cigarettes, camera, credit cards, comforter, blanket, pillow, cell phone, liquor and other items.

In the Monte Vista Hotel case, Cabael's co-defendants are Vincent Daniel Q. Terlaje, and Kelvin Kentaro Yasui Mufia.

AG' Cup to take place on Tinian in May

The Office of the Attorney General announced yesterday that the 30th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition will be held on May 2, 2014, on the island of Tinian.

The AG Cup is an annual speech competition that fosters research and debate among the islands' high school students. The attorney general selects a current and controversial topic that is then distributed to all of the CNMI's public and private schools. Each school may send one student to give a speech before a panel of esteemed judges.

"I encourage all high school students in the CNMI to take part in this historical and momentous event," said Attorney General Joey San Nicolas. "We are celebrating our 30th year and the host island will be Tin-

ian, which I am extremely excited about." San Nicolas said the AG Cup's planning committee "have been meeting and working tirelessly in preparation for this event and we anticipate a great turnout this year."

The topic for this year concerns the federal takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration system. More specifically, it directs students to research the federal Consolidated Natural Resource Act that mandates the non-immigrant worker population in the CNMI to be phased out. Students are expected to research the laws and its requirements, but most importantly, students are compelled to make their own recommendations on how the federal government should address the issue.

"I would like to thank our

subcommittee on Tinian for their continued assistance," said San Nicolas. The subcommittee consists of representatives of the Tinian's Mayors Office, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, Tinian Chamber

of Commerce, and Tinian Public School System.

The event will be held at the Tinian Jr.-Sr. High School's Cafetorium, San Jose Village, Tinian. If you would like further information about this year's AG Cup, contact the OAG at 664-2366. (OAG)

Attorney general conducts training

Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas, along with Chief Investigator Edward Cabrera, concluded a weeklong training benefiting the Commonwealth Ports Authority Police Academy's 14th cycle.

A total of 14 police cadets took part in the weeklong training. San Nicolas taught Introduction and Fundamentals of the 4th Amendment. Cabrera gave lessons on Police Report Writing.

"It was truly an honor to have been invited by CPA to conduct this type of training for their 14th cycle police cadets," said San Nicolas. "It was great to know that I was contributing my services not just as an AG but as a lecturer, thus creating a positive impact in the lives of the cadets. They were attentive and involved everyday of the training." (PR)

PICKS OF THE WEEK 5

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*Some condition apply. 1 year agreement is required.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
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BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Division of Historic Preservation, under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, wishes to advise the general public that the Historic Review Board will hold its annual meeting on March 28, 2014. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office on Aging Center's Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park. Interested individuals are invited to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting
- III. Old Business
 - a. Divert activities & other related military activities
 - b. Legal Counsel's report on Public Law 3-39 and as amended (PL: 10-71)
 - c. HPO Regulations Policy, Procedures and By-Laws review update (NPS)
 - d. Status of Fr. Hazel' projects for publications
 - e. Budget 2010, 2011 & 2012 status reports
 - f. Signage/Fencing of historical sites & water cave on Rota
 - g. HPO's report on Archaeologist and Historian Positions
 - h. Section 106 training
 - i. Latte Stone relocation request by the Mayor of Rota
 - j. Tinian Project Update
- IV. New Business
 - a. Secretary's Remarks
 - b. Orientation of the New Board Members
 - c. Duties and Membership of the State Review Board
 - d. Draft MOA on Divert Activities & Response from the Air Force Update
 - e. Tinian/Rota Program Update
 - f. Saipan Review and Compliance Update
 - g. HPO Financial Update
 - h. Japanese Bone Collection Activities Report
 - i. Other Regulatory Regulations & Guidelines (U.S. EPA)
 - j. Other New Business
- V. Adoption of Resolutions
- VI. Adjournment

/s/ **Laura T. Ogumoro**
Acting CNMI SHPO/Secretary, DCCA

Arctic Circle, CDA finally ink 1-year repayment deal

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of negotiations, a memorandum of agreement was finally hammered out between the Commonwealth Development Authority and Arctic Circle Air Co.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan disclosed yesterday that both parties recently inked an agreement stipulating a one-year payment term for the airline's outstanding obligation with CDA.

Arctic Circle Air owes CDA \$600,000. The money was sup-

posed to be used as a pledge for the company's interim loan with the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank in 2012. This amount came with the condition that it would be converted into equity once the bank loan is finalized. However, that loan transaction fell through. CDA then demanded that the \$600,000 be returned.

Sablan said yesterday that Arctic Circle has already made its first payment under the MOA.

"We've gone through with the issue on Arctic Circle and in fact, I understand that the company made its first payment a

week ago," he said.

CDA comptroller Donnie Militante confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Arctic Circle paid \$55,846 on March 13 as its first payment. The airline firm is required to pay the same amount every month until all obligations are settled within 12 months. Included in the monthly payment is a 7-percent per annum interest assigned to the \$600,000 loan.

Arctic Circle Air welcomed a new investor last year through president Hee Cho of JMSH, LLC, which owns

Rota Resort & Country Club. The largest hotel property on Rota has chartered Arctic Circle Air for passenger services from Saipan.

Cho is the majority shareholder, with investments of more than 51 percent in the airline company.

Arctic Circle's representation at the beginning of its venture is to provide a bridge between the Northern Marianas and Guam to promote agricultural exports. However, this changed later when the airline launched its passenger services and attracted new in-

vestors. The company is now in the transportation business,

which involves both cargo and passengers.

Group urges Pinoys in NMI to urge DHS to grant TPS status for Phils.

Today, March 27, has been designated as a Community Call to Action Day, urging members of the Filipino community in the United States, CNMI, and Guam to call the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the White House to designate a Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines.

During a March 26 national conference call of the US Pinoys for Good Governance, it was learned that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has already submitted his recommendation to the Department of Homeland Security.

"However, the content of the said recommendation was not divulged," said attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chairperson of the US Pinoys for Good Governance.

Under U.S. immigration law, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of State, may designate a country, or portions of a country, for TPS when conditions exist—such as an ongoing armed conflict or an environmental disaster—that temporarily prevents the country's nationals in the U.S. from returning safely.

Once a country receives TPS designation, nationals of that country residing in the U.S. would not be deportable and may receive temporary legal status that allows them to receive employment authorization and even permission to travel abroad.

According to a reliable source who does not want to be identified, the Department of Homeland Security is looking into the legal justification for a full or partial TPS for the Phil-

ippines (only those who have families in the areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda).

"As a result of this latest development, I am urging all Filipinos in the U.S., Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam to call the Department of Homeland Security at (202)-282-8495 and the White House at (202) 456-1111. Please say the following message: 'Temporary Protected Status for the Philippines must be designated. I urge the Department of Homeland Security (if calling DHS) and President Obama (if calling the White House) that full TPS be designated for the Philippines. My name is (say your name) from (say your city and state),' said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG Marianas chapter (CNMI and Guam).

"It has come to my attention that a misinformation is being disseminated that those who have CWs in the CNMI do not need to call for the TPS campaign. This is totally wrong because even non-Filipinos or other ethnicities can call to support TPS designation for the Philippines."

"In an effort to successfully campaign for TPS and assist those who would like to call DHS and the White House, the US Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas chapter, in collaboration with the National Federation of Filipino-American Association, will provide free calls today, March 27, at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, from 4pm to 7pm," added Lamkin who is also the newly appointed chairperson of the NaFFAA Marianas chapter for Guam and CNMI. (PR)

Judge: OAG need not produce door taken from La Fiesta

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed yesterday the Office of the Attorney General not to produce during the trial of Joseph A. Crisostomo the actual metal door that was collected from the former La Fiesta Mall and sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Camacho, however, directed the OAG to obtain a door virtually identical in size and composition to the metal door that was recovered from the crime scene and sent to the FBI for

fingerprint analysis. He ordered the government to produce that door to Crisostomo on or before March 31, 2014.

Crisostomo's jury trial will start on April 7. He is accused of killing bartender Emerita Romero at the former La Fiesta.

At a pretrial conference on Friday, the government, through Chief Prosecutor Brian Flaherty and assistant attorney general Margo Brown-Badawy, objected to the introduction of one of Crisostomo's exhibits, the metal door.

The prosecution argued that it doesn't have the door, and is thus unable to produce it. They

asked the court not to require the government to produce the door for trial.

The prosecution also noted that it is prohibitively expensive to ship the door back to Saipan.

Attorney Janet H. King, counsel for Crisostomo, argued that having the door at hand is important for the defendant's defense for the jury to see the physical aspects of the door.

King said that without seeing the door, which covered the entryway to the room where Romero's body was found, the jury will not be able to understand the importance of the finding that Crisostomo's fin-

gerprints were not on the door.

King said that earlier communications with the OAG included assurances that the door would be returned to the CNMI after the fingerprint analysis is completed.

In his order, Camacho said that based on the information provided by both parties, the production of the door is not material to Crisostomo's case because the combination of the fingerprint test results, photographs of the door, and access to a similar door for demonstration purposes constitute evidence comparable to the actual door that was recovered from the former mall.

Agulto thanks Tebuteb for support on funds for Kagman road repairs

Precinct 5 Rep. Antonio R. Agulto (Ind-Saipan) wrote yesterday to Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), indicating his support for House Local Bill 18-51, which the latter introduced.

HLB 18-51 seeks the appropriation of \$2.72 million, including \$600,000 in bond funds, for several Capital Improvement Projects on Saipan.

Agulto cited in particular the

funds that will be set aside to repair Kagman roads.

"The good people of Precinct 5 have vocally aired their concerns regarding the poor conditions of several secondary roads in Kagman Village and continue to be extremely patient as they continue to deal with safety and hazardous issues that affects the entire community," Agulto said.

HLB 18-51 seeks to allocate \$600,000 for the Kagman road paving project.

Back on Jan. 9, 2014, Agulto wrote Gov. Eloy S. Inos to ask for his assistance in securing CIP funds in the amount of \$530,000 to pave Pine Drive, Mangga Street, and Chopack Drive in Kagman. The amount was based on the engineer's cost estimate that was provided

by the Department of Public Works for Inos reference.

In his letter to Tebuteb, Agulto stated, "I am respectfully requesting for your utmost support in securing these funds to pave Pine Drive, Mangga Street, and Chopack Drive which will help ensure that the safety and welfare of our people is not compromised." (Jayson Camacho)

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, 2014 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan (Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of March 6th, 2014 minutes
5. Public Comments

B. Public Hearings

1. **Conditional Use Application #2014-0953:** Pacific Distiller is proposing to operate a distilling company for rum beverages on lots 572 and 573-J in San Antonio. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located southeast of Hopwood Jr. High school, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2014-1105:** ITS Corporation is proposing to amend its Conditional Use permit # 2011-4347 issued on 10/09/12, to redesign its approved site plan. This use is classified as Vehicle Repair, General and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on TR# 22703-8/ TR 22597-3 on Middle Road and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
3. **Conditional Use Application #2014-1150:** Top Development Inc. is proposing to operate a general auto shop on lot 013 D 06 in Garapan. This use is classified as Vehicle Repair, General and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on the corner of Cadena De Amor & Chichirica St., southeast of YCO Hardware store, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
4. **Rezone Application # 2014-0412:** Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. is requesting to rezone lots 006 H 11, 006 H 12, and 006 H 15 from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" zoning district to operate a funeral home and crematory services. These areas are located along Beach Road, across from Meena's clothing store and Aquarius Beach Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

C. Communications/ Reports

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Nuisance Abatement & Blighted Property Maintenance Act of 2013, authored by Representative Larry I. DeLeon Guerrero, 18th CNMI Legislature

E. New Business

1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for ITS Corporation

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. ITS Corporation is proposing to amend its Conditional Use permit # 2011-4347 issued on 10/09/12, to redesign its approved site plan. This use is classified as Vehicle Repair, General and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on TR# 22703-8/ TR 22597-3 on Middle Road and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: April 3rd, 2014, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 2nd, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman



SUPERIOR COURT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, U.S.A.
Guma' Hustisia, Imwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307



Announcement for Transcription Services

The CNMI Judiciary is seeking qualified businesses or individuals to provide transcription services for the Commonwealth Superior Court pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations: NMIAC § 70-30.3-220. Interested parties should pick up an information packet with submission requirements and instructions from the Office of the Clerk of Court, Superior Court located in the Guma Husticia/Imwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan. Submissions are due no later than April 30, 2014. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court at 236-9766 or 236-9765.

2014 March Against Cancer adds two more sponsors

Brabu Pharmacy and Island Apparel are once again sponsoring this year's staging of the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Manny Borja, 2014 MMAC committee chairman, said both companies are returning sponsors this year.

"The MMAC committee is very grateful that the sponsors have committed to supporting this battle against cancer in the CNMI," he said.

Brabu Pharmacy donated a total of \$1,000 as a major sponsor for the MMAC, while Island Apparel is a title sponsor, providing in-kind donation likes discounted shirt prices.

Brabu Pharmacy owner/manager Theodore Parker said the company's donation is merely an expression of gratitude for the people who continue to support Brabu Pharmacy.

"We have been donating to the MMAC and the American Red Cross as a business since we opened in June 2009. It is our position that being part of a community is giving back and this is one of the many ways we like to do that," Parker said.

He also said that even though they've lost several patients this year to cancer, "we fully comprehend the value of the Commonwealth Cancer Association in supporting cancer survivors as well as their families and the community and it is in this spirit that we continue to support this very worthy organization and we plan to do so for years to come."

Island Apparel owner Ed Calvo said that discounting the shirts to just \$4,000 is a big support and donation to the event.

"The cost of the shirts this year is one of the bigger expenditures of the event so we have discounted the shirt as part of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brabu Pharmacy owner/manager Theodore Baker, center, gives a \$1,000 check to 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer committee chair Manny Borja along with Brabu staff and MMAC committee members.

our support to the local event," Calvo said.

The shirts under retail pricing can cost up to \$12,000.

"We're able to reduce their cost and we're able to help them with the event, and we will put in our best effort to help the event and the community," he added.

Calvo also noted that a mobile printing station would be set up at the event where participants can order custom-made apparel or accessories.

"Participants can put 'In-memory-of' if they want with the name or other accessories, and the proceeds for that will go to the 2014 MMAC," Calvo said.

The 2014 MMAC will be held on May 2 to May 3, 2014, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. It is the signature fundraising event of the CCA.

For more information, contact Borja at 989-1987, email him at emanuel.borja@gmail.com, or visit CCA website at www.ccamarianas.org. (*Jayson Camacho*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ed Calvo, front row, far left, along with Island Apparel staff and the 2014 Marianas March Against Cancer pose together after receiving an in-kind donation of discounted T-shirt prices.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Pacific Distiller

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Pacific Distiller is proposing to operate a distilling company for rum beverages on lots 572 and 573"J" in San Antonio. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located southeast of Hopwood Jr. High school, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: April 3rd, 2014, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 2nd, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendment to the
Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone)
For Carmen Safeway Enterprises, Inc.

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. Carmen Safeway Enterprises Inc. is requesting to rezone lots 006 H 11, 006 H 12, and 006 H 15 from "Village Commercial" to "Mixed Commercial" zoning district to operate a funeral home and crematory services. These areas are located along Beach Road, across from Meena's clothing store and Aquarius Beach Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

A public hearing will be held on:

Date: Thursday, April 3rd 2014
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, April 2nd 2014. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Top Development Inc.

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Development Inc. is proposing to operate a general auto shop on lot 013 D 06 in Garapan. This use is classified as Vehicle Repair, General and is permitted in this district as Conditional Use. This area is located on the corner of Kadena De Amor & Chichirica St., southeast of YCO Hardware store, and is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: April 3rd, 2014, Thursday
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, April 2nd, 2014. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2013).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

Overdue skiff from Chuuk found near Satawal

CHUUK, FSM—The 19-foot skiff with two persons aboard that was reported overdue 13 days ago from Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, was located near Satawal, Yap State, on March 25, 2014.

Locals from the island of Satawal spotted a vessel with one person aboard drifting one nautical mile offshore and launched a vessel to as-

sist. They quickly determined the vessel was the missing 19-foot skiff and immediately rendered assistance to the 50-year-old survivor. U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam was notified of the rescue via Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite (PEACESAT) Guam. PEACESAT provides public service satellite telecommu-

nications to remote islands throughout the Pacific.

The survivor is fatigued, but in good health. The second man reportedly jumped overboard a week earlier, a few days after the vessel became disabled and adrift. Officials from FSM are arranging to transport the survivor back to his home in Chuuk State. Satawal is approximately 302 nautical miles

west of where the vessel became disabled in Chuuk State.

Multiple resources from FSM, Australia, the United States, and commercial mariners conducted searches for the overdue vessel, which departed from Chuuk on March 13. The resources included five "Good Samaritan" commercial ships, one U.S. Coast Guard C-130 aircraft from Barbers Point, Hawaii, one U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft from Okinawa, Japan, one Australian P-3 aircraft, and the patrol boat FSS *Micronesia* from Pohnpei, FSM. A total of 5300 square nautical miles were covered during the search. **(USCG)**

Navy sailors help extinguish Guam blaze



JESSE LEON GUERRERO

An MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 drops water on a fire along Route 17, Cross Island Road, in Santa Rita, Guam on March 25.

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Navy sailors and civilian firefighters partnered with the Guam Fire Department to extinguish a blaze along Route 17, Cross Island Road, in Santa Rita on Tuesday.

An MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 and Engine 2 from U.S. Naval Base Guam's Fire and Emergency Services responded to the scene and provided support.

"The team here on Guam relies upon mutually supporting assets across the military and civilian sectors, to be ready day or night to respond to any number of scenarios," said Cmdr. Gregory Leland, HSC-25 commanding officer. "Our crews train relentlessly to provide 24/7, 365

search-and-rescue capability as well as our need to provide combat-ready aircraft crews in the Pacific Command area."

NBG FES responded as part of the mutual aid agreement between local and federal emergency services.

"We have a very, very close tie with GFD," said NBG FES Fire Chief Robert Green. "We have the most seamless mutual aid that I've ever seen; we assist them when they request for it and they support us when needed. Guam is a small island and there needs to be that partnership especially for incidents like this. It's a miracle that we didn't have to evacuate any residents."

Leland said the incident was a prime example of how the command is trained to respond to an

event both here and abroad.

"The syllabus used to train for combat plays well into the skill sets needed to fight fires, rescue people from life-threatening scenarios and be on call for any number of unplanned events, be it terrorist scenarios, humanitarian assistance or disaster relief," he said. "The Island Knights stand ready with our brothers and sisters in the Coast Guard, Air Force, and Guam first responders to maintain the ability to help those in need."

GFD was the incident commander and led firefighting efforts. According to GFD spokesman

Ed Artero, the fire was extinguished as of 5:10pm. **(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)**

Humanities Council grant deadlines on Monday

The second quarter grant deadline for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's Community Grants Program is this Monday, March 31, at 5pm.

The council meets for regular sessions in January, April, July, and October each year and during each meeting, pending applications for community grants are looked at and decisions are made whether to fund or not fund particular applications.

The council awards competitive matching grants to any non-profit organization, institution, group or ad hoc committee and the council supports a wide range of humanities projects consistent with the goals and objectives of its Strategic Master Plan.

The Strategic Master Plan covers a five-year period from 2011 to 2015 and tackles current and long-range needs and challenges confronting the council. It aims to define the council's principal goals and objectives, which is establishing priorities for programs and activities, allowing the Council to carry out its program and activities in an efficient and organized fashion.

Grant applications may be delivered to the council office at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or emailed to northernmarianashumanities@gmail.com.

Grant applications will not be considered officially received until they have been certified complete by staff.

Applications submitted after the deadline will be considered during the next review cycle.

The council's purpose is to promote understanding and appreciation of the humanities in the Northern Marianas Islands. Making use of funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Council awards grants for projects focusing on the investigation and analysis of aspects of human culture and experience.

For more information about the council's grant program, visit their website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org or call 235-4785. **(Jayson Camacho)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 27, 2006

Admin's hiring plan questioned

The House minority bloc has questioned the Fitial administration's plan to fill numerous government positions, particularly at a time when the governor is also moving to cut government work hours. The seven-member minority, led by Rep. Arnold I. Palacios, said the administration has failed to formally communicate fiscal matters with the House. The group was referring to quarterly allotment reduction being implemented by the Executive Branch and the work-hour reduction plan. "The lack of communication on these matters, particularly when the only communication the undersigned members have received from your office are the numerous certifications of vacant government positions, leaves us with the view that the administration is putting forth a less than coherent policy on personnel budget cuts," read a portion of a letter sent by minority members to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

PSS enrollment projected to rise 23 percent by 2012

Enrollment in public schools is projected to increase by 2,500 students from 2005 to 2012, prompting the immediate need for more school facilities. According to the House of Representatives, the Public School System's enrollment is expected to increase by approximately 357 students annually. This means that the count of kindergarten to 12th grade students would increase from the year 2005 level of 10,946, to 13,346 by 2012. The projection represents an average growth of 23 percent over the next seven years or an annual average increase of 3.3 percent.

March 27, 2007

Businesses appeal anew vs federalization

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce met with visiting deputy assistant secretary for the Interior David Cohen yesterday, reiterating its concerns over an impending immigration takeover bill. Topmost is the need of the CNMI to continue to tap the China and Russian markets to ensure its market diversification. "We're asking that China and Russian markets continue to be developed," said Guerrero. Citizenship is another issue that was raised during the meeting, which was held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

On federalization: 'What's in it for us?'

If the \$15-billion military buildup in Guam is what is prompting the U.S. government to extend federal immigration in the CNMI, would the U.S. also set aside impact funding for the Northern Marianas? "If this is all because of Guam, we'd like to know what they are giving [us]," said businessman Juan T. Guerrero said yesterday. Guerrero, who is president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, has expressed belief that the military relocation to Guam, which is expected to begin next year, is what worries the federal government with regard to CNMI border security.

March 27, 2008

Telesource offers to lend Tinian generators to Saipan

Telesource CNMI, Inc. has come up with a novel plan to help alleviate the power crisis on Saipan—import generators from neighboring Tinian. In a statement from the company's CEO and president Nidal Z. Zayed, Telesource is proposing to lend one of its diesel generators on Tinian to the CUC power plant in Lower Base. Telesource operates the Tinian power plant. "Our study shows that a temporary relocation of 10 MW from Tinian to Saipan is very feasible and extremely beneficial to the island of Saipan and the people of the CNMI at large," he said.

Casino firm to time groundbreaking with Tinian fiesta

Bridge Investment Group, LLC is looking at holding the groundbreaking for its Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums sometime in early May to coincide with the island's San Jose Fiesta. This was confirmed yesterday by the company's vice president for CNMI operations, Phillip Mendiola-Long, in an e-mail to the Saipan Tribune. "We are looking at a fiesta (May 1-5) groundbreaking on Tinian. I should have a confirmation by mid-April," he said. "We will be submitting our full set of plans to DPW [Department of Public Works] and CRM [Coastal Resources Management] for master site permits in the second week of April."

OVR and SRC offer electronic links to surveys

Every three years, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation—in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council and through technical assistance and support provided by San Diego State University Interwork Institute—conducts a Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment to gather information and learn more about the current needs of people with disabilities in the CNMI.

The information obtained will help OVR, SRC, and partner agencies to make the most effective decisions about programs serving individuals with disabilities. Survey results will also help OVR and SRC to design training programs for

staff that will help them improve the quality and timeliness of services.

Two surveys are available electronically and are designed for specific groups:

■ https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_893GXoLmnPpOChf: This survey is to be completed by a person with a disability, a family member of a person with a disability, or a caregiver of a person with a disability. If you are a former consumer, a current consumer, or a potential future consumer of OVR, we would appreciate also hearing from you. A consumer is defined as a person who meets eligibility criteria for and is

receiving OVR or Voc Rehab services.

■ https://sdsueducation.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_00xXrWhVG6GVc7H: Please take this survey if you are a community partner from educational agencies, government agencies, community rehabilitation programs (aka OVR vendors), advocates (including members of disability-related boards and councils), attorneys, employers/businesses, workforce training providers, etc. Note: Community partners, if you have been scheduled and confirmed to attend/participate in OVR/SRC's focus groups or individual interviews the week of March 31, please do not take this elec-

tronic survey.

The surveys are voluntary and anonymous. However, OVR and SRC cannot emphasize enough how important the surveys are to identifying the current needs of people with disabilities on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and using the data to direct and guide program planning for the overall improvement of service delivery.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to request the survey in an alternative or accessible format, contact Dr. Mark Tucker of SD-SU-II at mtucker@interwork.sdsu.edu. The surveys will be available through April 15, 2014. **(OVR)**

COTA offers free rides to NMC's Career Fair

The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority is offering free roundtrip rides to the general public for the 2014 Northern Marianas College's Career Fair Day. The event will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014, from 9am to 12pm in NMC's Room D1.

Individuals who plan on attending the career fair but have no transportation are encour-

aged to call and reserve their ride in advance. There will also be accessible passenger vans for individuals with disabilities.

At the Career Fair, jobseekers will be able to meet and speak with recruiters and representatives of the Public School System, Pacific Islands Club, J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Office of Personnel Management, DFS

Saipan Ltd., Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, CNMI Head Start Program, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Pacifica Insurance, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Sorensen Media Group, Hyatt Regency Saipan, CNMI Department of Labor: Employment Services and Workforce Investment Agency, CDI Workforce

Development, College Access Challenge Grant, NMC Human Resources, and more.

Jobseekers who plan to attend the fair are encouraged to dress professionally, prepare copies of updated résumés, expect one-on-one time with employers, and be ready for on the

spot interviews. Participants are also asked to prepare to answer and ask questions, to be clear and engaging when speaking, and most importantly, to exhibit confidence when speaking with prospective employers.

For more information about the free rides or if you would like to make a reservation, call at 664-2690, text at 483-4344,

or via email at cnmicallaride@gmail.com.

For further information about the Career Fair, contact Neda C. Deleon Guerrero at 237-6759 or via email at neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. The Career Fair is supported by the College Access Challenge Grant program. **(COTA)**



DELTA DONATION

Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands members receive Delta Air Lines' donation of a round-trip ticket for two to Japan that will be featured as one of the prizes at the upcoming Go-Kart event by HANMI. From left, Carlos Rivera of Century Hotel; Chris Concepcion of Delta Airlines; Gloria Cavanagh, GM of Mariana Resort & Spa; chef William Retardo of Mariana Resort & Spa; and Marnie Geisinger, PAS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

4 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged four beaches on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Affected sites are Garapan Beach, Chalan Kanoa District 2 drainage, Hafadai Beach Hotel, and DPW Channel Bridge.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria

can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A big shoutout to my love, Mart Camacho Sablan! Happy 21st birthday, nenibear! I know you're at work so hope this message helps make your day better. God bless you today and forever as we grow together. Happy birthday again and I love you! Greetings from Marces-s4evs.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Job Vacancy Announcement

Strategic Gaming Solutions, Inc. has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Gaming Cage Worker (12)

Position Summary: Conduct financial transactions for patrons and guests. Follow all cash desk regulations. Participate in the soft count as required. Ensure that the cash desk float balances during and at the end of shift; reconcile daily summaries of transactions to balance books. Maintain cage security. Maintain confidentiality of customers' transactions. Use cash register or computer to record transactions.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a gaming cage worker or work experience at a gaming establishment cash desk operations or any combination of experience, education and/or training where financial transactions for patrons/guest skills are demonstrated or willing to undergo in-house training. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Surveillance Operator (12)

Position Summary: Responsible for video observation of all aspects of the e-gaming/digital lounge operation and the reporting of all irregular or illegal activities.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a surveillance operator or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all casino/e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Security Officer (12)

Position Summary: Responsible for the safety and well being of guests and fellow employees and protection of company property. Regularly provides escorts of money and persons in money-handling positions. Patrols all sections of property to identify safety hazards and breaks in security. Enforces all company policies and procedures. Maintains and enforces internal security regulations.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 years work experience as a security or police officer or investigator or any combination of experience, education and/or training in video surveillance and/or related investigations into all e-gaming lounge related activities including accounting, gaming machines, change booths, cashiering operations, count rooms, or wagering areas. Knowledge of gaming internal control procedures, CCTV and security management systems. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Bartender (3)

Position Summary: Responsible for operating and maintaining the e-gaming/digital lounge bar during the shift ensuring that the bar, equipment and stock are maintained and cleaned. Ensure that all stock levels are adequate. Mix and serve drinks to patrons, directly or through waitstaff

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a bartender. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Must have in depth knowledge about wines, spirits, cocktails and other drink ingredients. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication and leadership skills an advantage.

Cleaner (2)

Position Summary: Responsible for cleaning of the gaming floor, lounge and all other areas of the club premises. Maintain the club presenting a clean and presentable appearance.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 1 year work experience as a cleaner preferably in a gaming establishment or hotel. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing, with excellent communication skills an advantage.

Driver (2)

Position Summary: Responsible for driving company, assigned or courtesy vehicles to transport guests and customers in a safe, efficient and polite manner; arrange to pick up customers or guests on a regular schedule. Liaise with the guest services/marketing supervisor and hotel regarding accommodation and transport of guests and customer.

Position Requirement: High School graduate, GED or equivalent plus 2 year experience working as a driver. Must have a commercial driver's license or equivalent with the ability to drive a commercial bus and courtesy van or car. Must be energetic with an excellent track record in hospitality and who thrives in a fast-paced service environment. Ability to communicate effectively with guests, team members and management in both written and verbal form. Ability to handle multiple tasks. Must demonstrate true passion to serve guests. Must have strong team work skills. Must be willing to work shifts, evenings, holidays, and weekends. Highly motivated, organized, outgoing with excellent communication skills an advantage.

Compensation: All positions will be filled and paid at a rate commensurate with qualification, work experience, and ability to perform.

Job Location: Saipan and at all offices or e-gaming/digital gaming lounges of the corporation.

Application: Applications may be obtained from the Mita Travel, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The detailed job description & KSA and benefits for each position is available for review by applicants. Deadline for submission of completed applications is Monday, March 31, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

US must insist on Internet remaining free and open

As we note the 25th anniversary of the birth of Tim Berners-Lee's World Wide Web, the integrity of the Internet is threatened as never before. China and Russia are launching cyberattacks at unprecedented levels, and the NSA's hacking and spying are destroying trust in technology.

In that context, the Obama administration has announced it will give up U.S. control of the Internet to an international governing body. This has been in the works for more than a decade—but the president needs to be certain that the transition to a nonprofit will maintain a free and open system. That is not at all clear today.

Silicon Valley can't keep driving the U.S. economy unless the guiding principles that shaped the Internet are the foundation of its next governing body.

If it were possible, we would urge Obama to hand control of the Internet back to "God." But the bushy-bearded, sandal-clad tech genius who bore that nickname, the University of Southern California's Jon Postel, died in 1998 after serving as unofficial governor of the Internet for decades.

Valley legend Vint Cerf said this of Postel's legacy: "He was our rock. He was the foundation on which our every web search and email was built."

Postel helped devise the protocols that underpinned the web and then served as the Internet's primary administrator. His philosophy, now known as Postel's law, was that any "implementation should be conservative in its sending behavior, and liberal in its receiving behavior."

Postel died just as the current Internet administrator, the Los Angeles-based ICANN (The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), was being formed. ICANN contracts with the Commerce Department to keep the system running.

Critics of releasing control now, including Republican Newt Gingrich, fear that foreign governments will swoop in and stifle its democratic principles. It's a legitimate fear, given that in 2012, the World Conference on International Telecommunications considered handing control of Internet operations to the United Nations, a frightening thought.

Commerce Department officials have issued guiding principles for the next governing body that emphasize the importance of a stable, open Internet. They maintain they will not turn over control to a government-led organization of any form. That's a relief.

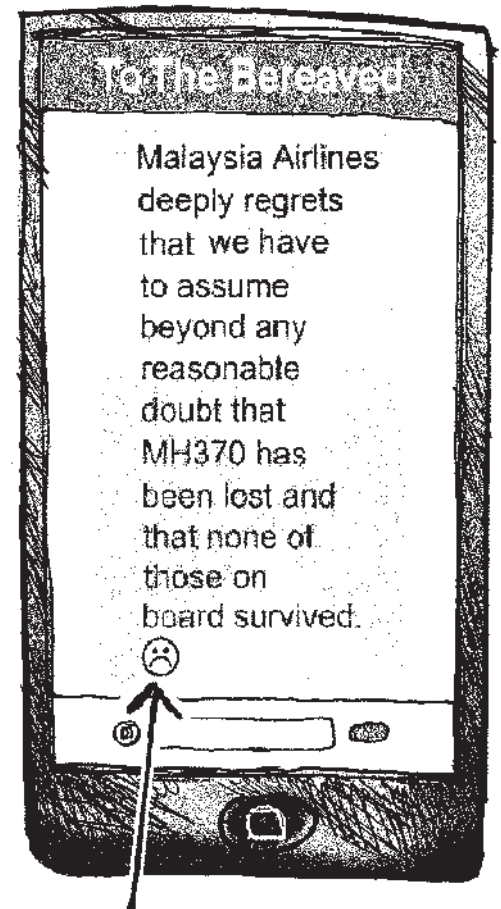
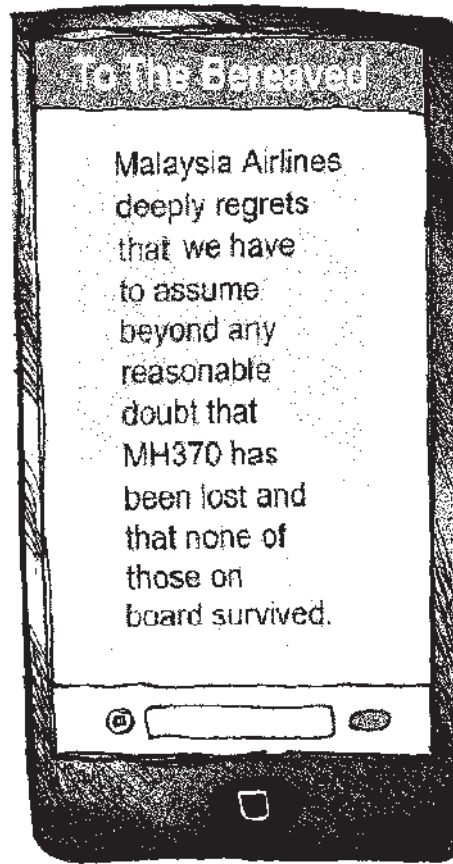
An ICANN stakeholder meeting beginning Sunday in Singapore is supposed to clarify the transition. The Obama administration should insist on an international nonprofit with established Internet principles to assume leadership.

Unfortunately, the United States has lost some of its moral authority in this choice because its own spying outrages have been exposed. It's one more reason the president needs to restore Internet integrity, starting with its own use of the system. And he should not hand anything over until we know who or what will be Postel's heir.

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HOW MALAYSIAN AIRLINES
COULD'VE MADE THEIR
INSENSITIVE TEXT
TO FAMILIES A LITTLE
MORE COMPASSIONATE

KIRK ©2014 The Blade
kirk@theblade.com



BY ADDING A SAD FACE

Think Russia's land grab is unique? Think again

It has become a truism in discussions of Russia's takeover of Crimea that in the post-World War II international order, countries no longer rewrite borders through force—or if they do, rarely find themselves faced with determined opposition from other states. As Secretary of State John F. Kerry put it, the Crimea campaign is a "19th century act."

Such statements ignore major pieces of inconvenient history. Though it is too early to say much about the 21st century, the late 20th century saw countries gobble up foreign territory. Indeed, even the more modest claim that such territorial conquest is unknown in Europe is not true. Sometimes these actions met determined international opposition, but just as often they did not. Immediate objections fade. Indeed, a comprehensive study of post-WWII conquest finds that United Nations condemnation happens in well under half the cases.

Russian President Vladimir Putin needed to look no further than his Black Sea neighbor Turkey for inspiration. In 1974, Turkey invaded northern Cyprus, and continues to occupy the northern third of the island under an unrecognized puppet regime. Cyprus, a member of the European Union, is not a member of NATO. This has not prevented the development of close relations, and even solicitude, from the EU toward its own occupier.

As Turkey was grabbing Cyprus, Morocco snatched the massive and resource-rich Western Sahara—like Russia's Crimea move, in a swift action that did not result in the firing of a shot. The Moroccan invasion was met with a U.N. Security Council condemnation, which Rabat shrugged off. Although no nation has recognized Moroccan sovereignty over the occupied area, Morocco remains a close ally of the United States and the EU. Indeed, U.S. policy now supports Moroccan proposals to retain the occupied territory under Moroccan sovereignty with local autonomy. Moreover, European companies happily help Morocco exploit Western Sahara's resources, and recent treaties with Europe even acknowledge and engage with Moroccan control.

Perhaps the most egregious examples are the bloody conquests of entire countries. It seems 1975 was the year for such things, with North Vietnam wiping South Vietnam off the map and Indonesia seizing East Timor. All nations now recognize Hanoi's sovereignty over all Vietnam. And despite a hostile Security Council resolution, the West quietly supported Indonesia's Timor position for decades, before Jakarta's brutality made the issue difficult to ignore.

More recently, Armenia successfully conquered parts of Azerbaijan in the 1990s, a move condemned by the EU but that seems unlikely to be reversed. And, of course, Russia snagged parts of Georgia just five years ago—and, after a series of Western threats,

By **EUGENE KONTOROVICH**
Los Angeles Times

Eugene Kontorovich is a professor at Northwestern University School of Law, specializing in international and constitutional law. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



was punished with an Olympic Games.

When conquest fails, it is because of resistance from the target state—as with Argentina's bid for the Falklands, or Libya's for parts of Chad, and Iraq's attack on Iran. But international ts-ktsking does not do the trick. Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, which led to an international effort to eject him, is not the paradigm but rather the exception.

Even in cases in which the conqueror's control remains in dispute, it does not poison international relations. Israel's 1967 Six-Day War successes are the exception that prove the rule: It is unimaginable that 45 years from now, the EU will be demanding that Russian exports be clearly marked to indicate they did not come from "occupied Ukrainian territory." Based on the current sanctions threats, it will not be doing this 45 days from now.

Indeed, the vigor with which the international community has maintained, and increased, its objections over Israel's presence in the West Bank may divert attention from other conquests. Putin knows this. Remarkably, Russia retained its status as a member of the "quartet"—with the U.S., EU and U.N.—seeking to broker Israeli territorial withdrawals even after it invaded Georgia.

To be sure, the post-Cold War world has seen an apparent reduction in territorial expansionism. But this is not because of any fundamental shift in international mores but for more mundane reasons. The wars of the 21st century have been wars of secession and dissolution. Separatism is a counterbalance to aggrandizement.

More important, territorial control has on the whole become less valuable for states. A much smaller percentage of today's value production comes from land and natural sources, so control of territory gets the occupier less. Moreover, improvements in communications and transportation make it much easier to have a docile puppet state.

Today, conquest is less often a national interest. But when it is, legal barriers pose little restraint. Indeed, the West's continued willingness to effectively abide the major land grabs of Turkey and Morocco suggests that, except for unusual cases, the West will do little to stop such acts in the future.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Destrosiun Lina`la` Natibu

Esta mafitma lai i aktun casino pot para umanana`lu i matut na pagamientun man-ritirau yan otru siha obligasion. Ha danche si Gobietnu Eulogio S. Inos i umapu` gi este na prinipone pot para u apprueba industrian casino ni dos biahe mapunu` ni publikun Saipan.

Gi primet lugat, tai atoridat si Inos umutut pagamienton man-ritirau segun i mandatun lai konstitusion. Anog na taya` respetu gi espiritun lai. Masedegue` umenfuetsa i lai lau ni manu` nai gaigne na manae` gue` atoridat man-utut pagamientu.

Mampos hana` tristeyu` este na sinisede` nos pot guahu lau para memegaiña ni ti lumi`e defektun un` lai` nai ta sedi mayamag trañk-ildat tautau-ta gi haf` guinahata. Pot kuattru sientos años man-la`la` hit gi halom pineble lau ta suñgun numa`e animu pot famaguonta.

Kulan ta choneg huyuñg gi trañkan tailaye i futturon famagu-onta. Estague` i mas triste na ha`ane para guahu solamismu. Pu-ede in` repara na debi tana` la anaku` fan atanta pot i manatatte na pidasuta siha.

Finatton Chatagmag

Gi diariu na finatton tafat oga`an, sige adumididi` ta kaikai` hit para tafaña hulu` man-na`lagu kafe yan amotsa. Megaiña besis` nai man-listu hit fumana` ha`anita.

Lau pa`gu na biahe maliñgu gi halom manadan tita huhulat na obligasion haf` para ta apase` sino letke pot otru nesessidat. Kandet pat neñkanu`? Haf` ya ni unu gi dos siña sa` linachai ni ma-utut sueddon 25 pot sientu gi sueddon man-ritirau ni hinegse otru siha hatsada?

I miserapble na modun linala` oppan yan titiñgtiñg gi todú i señg-soñg. Megai na familia pumadedese didog na chinatsaga pot diskui-don man-sabiu gi hegsu` I Deni`. Mattu este na pinadese lologlug gi puntan satten na kontodu tampe siempre u gupu ginen sagaña. Kontodu inadisgustun familia finañagu sin presisu.

Guaha satbasion lau ni unu umi`ina sa` mantinane` ni asuntun casino. Poresu na mayute` gi un` banda diberas na areglu siha. Puru balakon yan bakan casino gi todú atmos banda ya man-a`añañgon kuantu para hagu na pasalubung. Dios mihu!

Man-namase` famaguonta

Ti ensegidas anog, lau siempre u fan man-dispone man-ma`gas ni ma`gas inetnon kriminat gi operasion yan disposision casino guine. Gigon man-mafahan, maulegña tailaye ya man-mafondu todus linala`ta. Magpu` lisayon taloane kontodu pupueñge.

Estague` na mañgañite i ti a`anog pa`gu gi konsiderasion aktun casino. Atan ya in` fan adiñgan a`gang yan klaru na umarespeta disi-sion publikun Saipan.

Siña ha` ti hulie` este masusede gi linala`hu lau ti umahñau siem-pre u masusede. Estague` na ha`ane i mas triste para i natibu`nai man-mafa` esklabu ni kriminat ginen hiyuñg. Dañkulu tinayuyot-hu na ti umasusede i esta hulie` gi siñienten taduñg gi estomaguhu.

Haf` na para ta guiguife i titana` siña? Guaha binabaña ta akseptá haf` guinaha-ta? Kau mampos sensian hasupag na esta titalie` fotte na defektun industrian casino? Monhayan hu komple obligasiohu kumu responsable na sudadanu. Maila` tafan apipet ya ta tagam pot uttimu besis un` dañosu na kulebla ni para u destrosia futtunan fa-maguonta. Si Yuus Maase`!

Disision publiku

Areglo gi hilu` sanu na disposision che`chu` linahyan iya hululu` gi todú konsiderasion aktu gi lehislatura. Ti este masusede gi gotpe na inapprueban aktun casino. Anog na mampos chathinassu sa` ha yamag i disposision publiku.

I interes otru mana` ha hululu` na biahe. Poreso na ma-alulayeye mapega estampu` niha gi aktun casino. Taya` respetu gi disision publiku ni pot dos biahe ha punu` asuntun casino.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

`Nai ha chule` i publiku i asuntu ya ha pega disisioña, haf` na para in` fan duda haf` sustansian ayu na disision? Na ti man-chinile`guan hamyu pot taya` inañgoghu giya hamyu? Poresu na hana` suha ya guiya mismu dumispona.

Este na mañan insuttu kontra i publiku oppan i taya` respetu gi disposision linahyan. Ke lau hafa gi “No” ti makomprende? Ti-nilaika gi sentimentun publiku? Hombre atan manu`nai in` pega ha`anen niha sa` hamyu umareglaye pisu gi linala` miserapble. Este na tinilaika ginen hamyu!

■■■

Mauleg i man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni` na umatuñgu` na i publiku ha sen tuñgu` klaru haf` asuntoña. Muñga man-e`suette gi lachen guinifen na`tatah na guinife. Siempre i publiku`in fan finan`e haf` sentimentoña kabales pa`gu na Nobiembre. Ni kuantu na “biba” ti umatulaika sentimentoña. Debi u biliba yan chalapon i man-tai res-petu ya u gu`ot i tumuñgu` man-respeta.

■■■

Dispues, haye gi entre 29 na membron lehislatura tumuñgu` kabales bisnis operasion casino? Haf` na para in`fa` keketuñgu` i in` tiñgu` ha` na ti in` tiñgu`? Mauleg na ihemplo publikamente i bachet para u pipipet otru siha man-bachet? Manu na eskuela`nai man-eyag hamyu kuentas?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘Abandon the proposed HB 18-169’

Dear Members of Legislature: I would like to thank you for provid-ing me a draft of House Bill 18-169 and your interest in my opinion of it. Being member of the CNMI and Saipan tour industry for more than a decade, I would like to share with you my thoughts about HB 18-69. The bill seeks to assess a Special Environmental Manage-ment Impact Tax on all tour packages and to reserve the funds col-lected from the tax for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Paragraph 1 states that the “Legislature find that tourism provides major development opportunity on Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.” From my experience with tourism, I can say that this business is a very hard one. Big money is spinning in it, but it is very difficult to scoop some money from this great stream of cash because of cutthroat competition and the war of prices. There are some countries like Spain, Italy, Bulgaria, and Czech Republic that have massive tourism industries that produce great input into their national gross domestic product. Tourism in these countries helps to sell nationally produced food and beverages and other products, which provides a great train of positive effect on other domestic industries. I would call it the Tourism of the First Kind. I cannot say that CNMI tourism falls under this definition. It is based on imported finance, labor, food, and shopping items. Therefore, CNMI tourism cannot provide that train of positive effects on the local economy.

It is a pity that the Legislature does not see any other op-portunities for local economic development, but instead drives away investors and people with ideas. People who’ve lived and worked on Saipan much longer than I have told me stories about investors who came with propositions to modify the local energy system or set up some business other than tourism and they were chased away. This disturbs me that you, legislators, do not see any opportunity for economic development except tourism and casino. Those industries are great supplements for any national economy, but due to high volatility and dependence on a great number of factors (such as wars, epidemics, natural disasters etc, which not one government can control) they cannot be the back-bone of a sustainable economy.

Paragraph 1 further states that intent of the bill is to “impose an impact tax” for the maintenance, protection, and preservation of tourist sites. In addition, there is a need to assist MVA to promote the CNMI “as a prime tourist destination. I would like to point out that the Legislature has already burdened the local tourism industry

with a \$15 per head fee (the solemn purpose of which was to as-sist MVA) and increased the room sale tax by up to 15 percent, which makes the CNMI hotel tax the highest in the entire Micro-nesia (room sale tax in Guam, 11 percent; Palau, 10 percent; Yap, 10 percent; Chuuk, 10 percent). Faced with the highest power rates in the region and a looming minimum wage hike, the CNMI tour-ism industry already operates under very unfavorable conditions. I already mentioned the cutthroat competition in the global tourism market and there are no prisoners in this battle.

CNMI tourism is already pushed against the wall. Now it will be made to endure another handicap in the form of an additional 10 percent tax. Let’s refer to math. If a hotel sells a room for \$100, the client has to pay \$100 + 15 percent = \$115. Now the seller has to charge another 10 percent: \$115 + 10 percent = \$126.50. This is just a net rate. From experience, I know that share of sales via agent is as high as 70 percent and tour agents live on commission. There are bank and other commissions. With a 15-percent room tax, CNMI tourism has to swim with a backpack of rocks. I do not know how it will stay afloat with an additional 10 percent tax.

Beside hotels, the proposed tax will affect every single operator on the tourism market. All tours and all meals will become more expensive overnight. There is a break point in sales: you negotiate a higher price`til some point when a customer realizes that this nego-tiated price is out of his league. Then the customer just walks away and he or she will not listen to any offers. Such a customer is lost for the seller. I am afraid that, with the proposed 10 percent tax, CNMI tourism will reach that break point.

Another question is why the proposed tax has to be imposed? All subjects of the tourism industry pay taxes already. However, this is true with regards to legal operators only. Illegal operators will benefit from the prospective tax because their competitors will have to raise their rates. And those illegal operators do not pay any taxes at all. We are talking about private operators and whole sectors of the local tourism market. *Saipan Tribune* published the letter of one young gentleman about practices of the Korean market. I myself shared the information about illegal activity of a particular agency during discussions at the Legislature. It was one year ago. To this date there is no reaction from any local or federal agency and said illegal tour agency continues its business. Maybe the Legislature should turn its attention to this issue instead of increasing taxation. This will legalize a cash flow that currently stays under the radar.

Otherwise, the lack of action by official agencies can motivate legal operators to follow the example of illegal ones.

HB 18-169’s expressed concern about the environment is a right one. Saipan beaches and roadsides are littered. Some time ago policy makers implemented penalties for beach littering. Later it was scrapped “because the local population could not afford to pay the penalty.” This is strange because the purpose of any penalty is to make breaking of rules prohibitive, expensive. Now the whole tourism industry has to pay for beach mainte-nance. I think Saipan and other islands’ environments need at-tention. Almost all islands get red-flagged beaches. This problem has been existing for decades and it is not the fault of the tour-ism industry. Significant financial effort is required to solve this problem. With no regards to a tax scale, required funds have to be accumulated through a period of time. I am afraid that the pro-posed environment maintenance fund will be “reprogrammed”; we all witnessed such maneuvers previously.

As for the assistance to MVA and the great benefit of CNMI promotion to local operators, I would like to say that nobody could explain the exact reasons for the growth that local tourism is experiencing in the last two years. Probably contributing to the growth factors are lack of epidemics, natural disasters and wars in Asia and relative stable finances. Local tourism suffered from such factors a few years in a row. Those factors can be classi-fied as macro-factors and their scope is way beyond the CNMI’s control. Currently, local tourism has reached its physical capac-ity. No matter how hard and actively we promote the CNMI, we cannot accommodate the current demand. Active promotion that is not backed by a real capacity can diminish the CNMI’s cred-ibility. I think the current task for MVA marketing is to maintain the CNMI’s presence in the market. With the growth of capacity, the marketing can be intensified.






Based on these matters, I would like to ask the honorable ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature to abandon the proposed H.B. 18-169. As an alternative, it could be more effective to produce laws and rules to regulate and certificate the local tourism. In case of any questions, I can be contacted via e-mail: belkatours@pticom.com.

Alexander Vekhov
Owner/general manager
Sasha Co., Ltd.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East to northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 88° ▼ 77° | ▲ 88° ▼ 76° | ▲ 88° ▼ 76° | ▲ 88° ▼ 76° | ▲ 88° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 86 ▼ 78 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲ 88 ▼ 77 |
| Yap | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 89 ▼ 78 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲ 87 ▼ 80 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 78 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 78 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 80 |

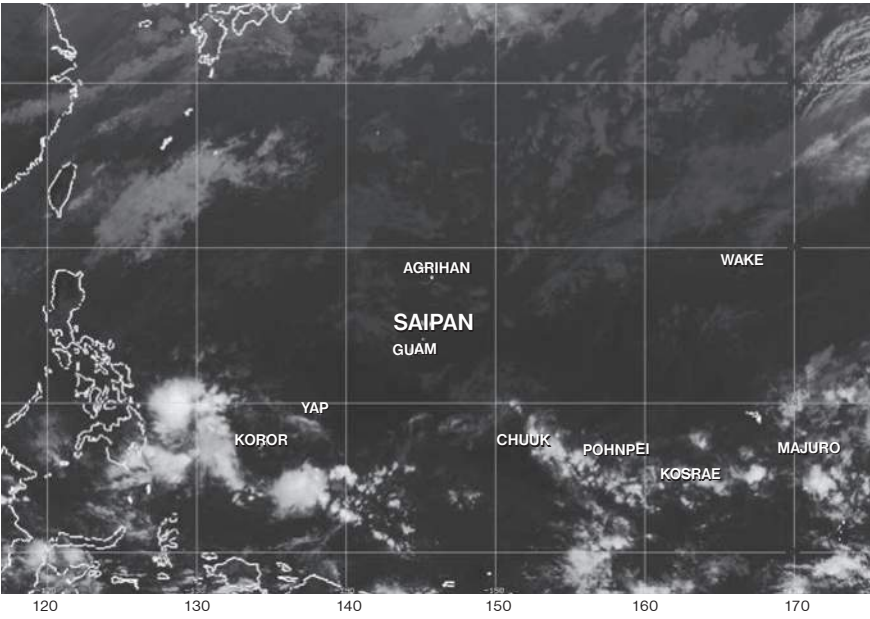
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Sunny | ▲ 71 ▼ 59 |
| Beijing | Showers | ▲ 78 ▼ 50 |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 68 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 83 ▼ 70 |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 54 ▼ 38 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 68 ▼ 53 |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 90 ▼ 79 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 56 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲ 75 ▼ 71 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 45 ▼ 37 |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 67 ▼ 51 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 62 ▼ 42 |
| Pusan | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 65 ▼ 54 |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 62 ▼ 46 |
| Salem | Rain | ▲ 55 ▼ 46 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 58 ▼ 51 |
| Seoul | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 73 ▼ 48 |
| Tokyo | Sunny | ▲ 68 ▼ 50 |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 51 ▼ 40 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|--|
| 6:19 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet | |
| 12:07 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.9 Feet | |
| 5:27 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An old shear line stretches southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N176E through the far northern CNMI near Pagan at 17N146E to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 375 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind disturbances are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Koror or west of a line from 11N133E to 5N134E and south of Yap between 3N and 6N from 135E to 141E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of Chuuk south of Pohnpei but over Kosrae within 70 miles of a line from 8N153E to 5N158E to 5N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also taking place over the Marshall Islands and Butaritari atoll within an area bounded by a line from 11N169E to 11N179E to 2N173E back to 11N169E.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:16 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Friday | 6:16 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Saturday | 6:15 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Sunday | 6:14 AM | 6:29 PM |
| Monday | 6:14 AM | 6:29 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 3:04 AM | 3:04 PM |
| Friday | 3:54 AM | 4:04 PM |
| Saturday | 4:42 AM | 5:02 PM |
| Sunday | 5:30 AM | 5:59 PM |
| Monday | 6:16 AM | 6:57 PM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 27, 2014

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------|----------------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA1746 | 8:55pm | 10:52pm | Daily via Rota | UA1746 | 7:30pm | 8:10pm | Daily |
| SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) | | | | OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 6:40am | Daily | OZ120 | 9:50pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily | DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:30pm | 7:20pm | Daily | DL288 | 8:55pm | 1:30am+1 | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ608 | 3:10am | 6:20am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | OZ607 | 9:00pm | 1:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 | D2101 | 8:30am | 2:00pm | 3 |
| D2102 | 2:20am | 5:50am | 3 | OZ603 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | D2103 | 7:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 6 |
| OZ6063 | 3:30am | 7:20am | 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) | OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| D2104 | 2:00pm | 5:30pm | 6 | OZ605 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| OZ604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily | OZ6053 | 9:10pm | 2:30am+1 | 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29) |
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | | BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | |
| MU764 | 4:00am | 8:00am | 1, 5 | MU763 | 7:20pm | 3:00am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 | 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/701 | 2:10am | 11:15am | 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ606/701 | 2:40am | 11:15am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | PR110/UA5072 | 7:35am | 5:35pm | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ604/703 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN | DL172/288 | 7:45am | 1:30am+1 | Daily via NRT |
| | | | | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| | | | | OZ702/605 | 12:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | | | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | | | |
| OZ606/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN | OZ746/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/605 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| UA5068/179 | 8:40am | 10:35pm | 1, 5 via GUM | OZ724/605 | 1:50pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA5038/179 | 2:20pm | 10:35pm | 3, 6 via GUM | UA180/5071 | 11:10pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| OZ604/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | Daily via ICN | | | | |
| SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) | | | | TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| D2884 | 10:45am | 2:45pm | Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24 | D2885 | 4:45pm | 12:20am +1 | Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24 |
| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) | | | | HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN | | | |
| D2880 | 4:30pm | 8:00pm | Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27 | D2881 | 10:00pm | 5:15am +1 | Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27 |
| SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) | | | | WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN | | | |
| D2882 | 11:00am | 3:15pm | Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26 | D2883 | 5:15pm | 12:20am +1 | Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

HSC-25 flies sick woman from Rota to Guam

ASAN, Guam—Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 assisted in the medical evacuation of a woman from Rota who required medical care on March 26.

A Navy MH-60S helicopter

was launched from Andersen Air Force Base at approximately 9:10am. Navy personnel assessed and stabilized the patient and transported her to U.S. Naval Hospital Guam. She was

then transported via ambulance to Guam Memorial Hospital for treatment.

The incident was the ninth medevac executed by HSC-25 personnel this year.

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. As a part of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, it provides an armed helicopter capability for U.S.

7th Fleet in support of logistics, search and rescue, and humanitarian assistance missions.

HSC-25 is also the only squadron that maintains a 24-hour search and rescue

and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. (*Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office*)

Additional USDA support for US organic industry

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced new figures on Thursday that show the organic industry continues to grow domestically and globally, with over 25,000 certified organic operations in more than 120 different countries around the world.

Through the Agricultural Marketing Service's National Organic Program, USDA has helped an additional 763 producers become certified organic in just 2013, an increase of 4.2 percent from the previous year. The industry today encompasses a record breaking 18,513 certified organic farms and businesses in the United States alone, representing a 245 percent increase since 2002. The 2013 list of certified USDA organic operations shows an increased rate of domestic growth within the industry, resuming previous trends.

"Consumer demand for organic products has grown exponentially over the past decade. With retail sales valued at \$35 billion last year, the organic industry represents a tremendous economic opportunity for farmers, ranchers and rural communities," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "New support in the 2014 Farm Bill will enhance USDA's efforts to help producers and small business tap into this market and support organic agriculture as it continues to grow and thrive."

USDA has a number of new and expanded efforts to connect organic farmers and businesses with resources that will ensure the continued growth of the organic industry domestically and abroad. During this Administration, USDA has signed three major trade agreements on organic products, first with Canada and then with the European Union and Japan. Our trading partners are eager to establish organic equivalency arrangements with the U.S. because they recognize the strength of the National Organic Program and the value of the USDA organic label.

USDA is also helping organic stakeholders access programs that support conservation, provide access to loans and grants, fund organic research and education, and

mitigate pest emergencies. Funds are currently available for research projects under the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems. The program also funds research projects to enhance the ability of organic producers and processors to grow and market their products. Additional information is available online, and request for proposals are due by May 8, 2014.

Additionally, the recently-signed 2014 Farm Bill includes provisions that are a greater support to the organic community, including:

- \$20 million annually for dedicated organic research, agricultural extension programs, and education. The Cooperative Extension System is a nationwide, non-credit educational network. Every U.S. state and territory has a state office at its land-grant university and a network of local or regional offices staffed by experts that provide useful, practical, and research-based information.

- \$5 million to fund data collection on organic agriculture that will give policymakers, organic farmers, and organic businesses data needed to make sound policy, business, and marketing decisions.

- Expanded options for organic crop insurance to protect farmers.

- Expanded exemptions for organic producers who are paying into commodity "check off" programs, and authority for USDA to consider an application for the organic sector to establish its own check off.

- Improved enforcement authority for the National Organic Program to conduct investigations.

- \$5 million for a technology upgrade of the National Organic Program to provide up-to-date information about certified organic operations across the supply chain.

- \$11.5 million annually for certification cost-share assistance, which reimburses the costs of annual certification for organic farmers and livestock producers by covering 75 percent of certification costs, up to \$750 per year. (*USDA*)

Guam drug trafficker is sentenced to 10 years

HAGATNA, Guam—Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood sentenced Rodney D. Taitano, 45, on March 24, 2014, in the U.S. District Court of Guam to 10 years in prison followed by five years of supervised release based upon his conviction for conspiracy to distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine. Tydingco-Gatewood also ordered Taitano to perform 50 hours of

community service.

According to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Taitano was receiving methamphetamine from California. The drugs were inside air impact wrenches whose motors had been removed. On May 4, 2013, Guam Customs Officers intercepted a suspicious package at

the Guam Customs Air Cargo Facility and discovered methamphetamine concealed inside of two air impact wrenches that belonged to Taitano.

Limtiaco, stated, "Our community is not immune from the poison of methamphetamine. This case illustrates the hard work our partners in law enforcement do every day to stop the distribution of methamphet-

amine into Guam."

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Guam Customs & Quarantine Agency, Guam Police Department, Superior Court of Guam Probation Office, and U.S. Postal Inspectors. The United States was represented by assistant U.S. attorneys Karon V. Johnson and Clyde Lemons Jr. (*USAO*)

USNH set to move to replacement hospital

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—U.S. Naval Hospital Guam staff are preparing for the transition into the replacement hospital, located adjacent to the current hospital and on the cliffs overlooking Agana and the Philippine Sea, which is scheduled for April 11 to April 20.

"Transition activities and training for our staff is well underway as we prepare for the new hospital," said Capt. Jeff Plummer, commanding officer of USNH Guam.

Construction is nearly 100 percent complete after three years since the groundbreaking that took place in January 2011. Interestingly, talks of the possibility of a replacement hospital began almost 16 years ago. Since then, detailed discussions and planning involving thousands of man-hours and countless personnel from designers, architects, and construction firms, as well as Navy facilities and Navy medicine staff, have brought to fruition the state-of-the-art replacement hospital that will be ready to open in just a few short weeks.

Said Capt. Glenn Shephard,



JENNIFER M. ZINGALIE

U.S. Naval Hospital Guam staff are preparing for the transition into the replacement hospital, located adjacent to the current hospital and on the cliffs overlooking Agana and the Philippine Sea, which is scheduled for April 11 to April 20.

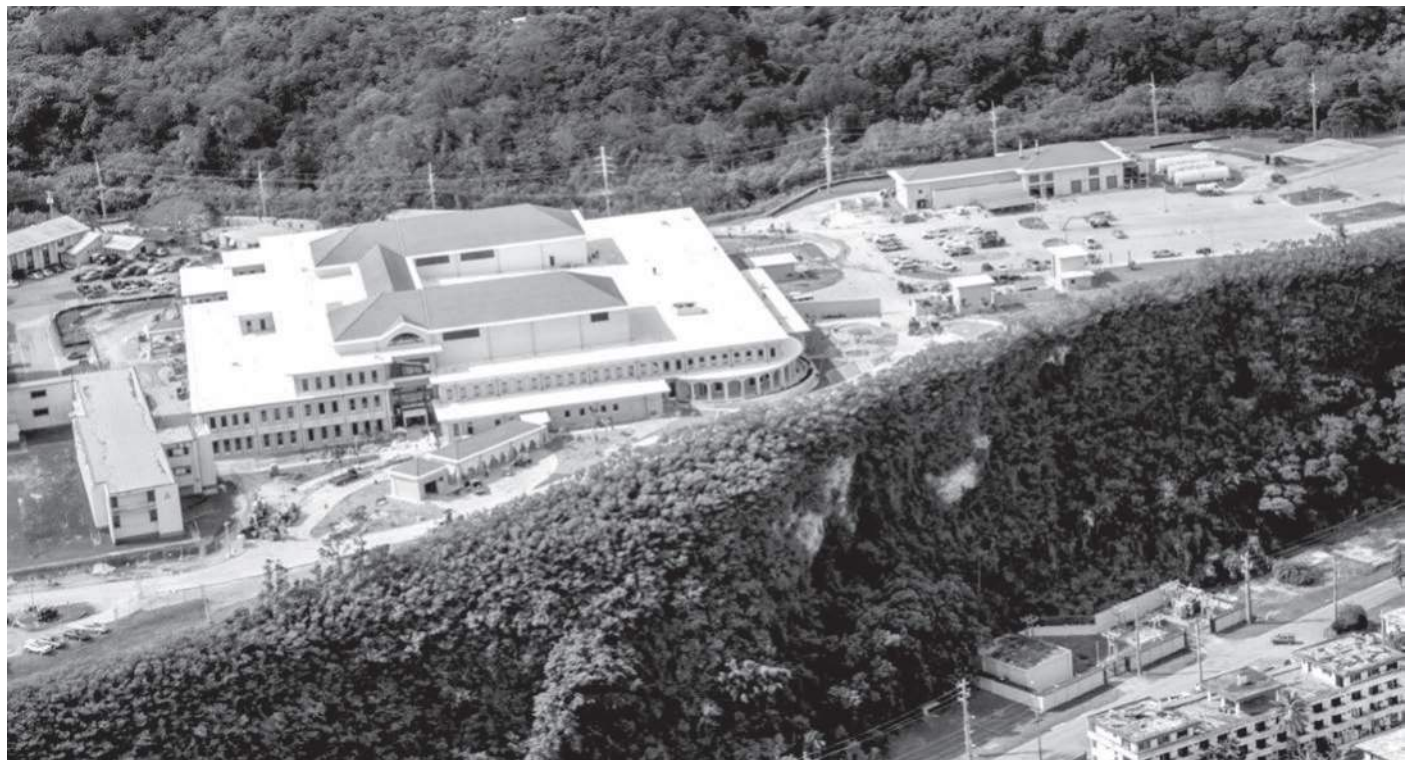
commanding officer of Naval Facilities Marianas, "The new Navy Hospital involved millions of man hours from an exceptional government and contractor team that designed and built a facility that will house advances in healthcare and increases hospital operations efficiency, thus providing the finest

service to our sailors, families, and eligible beneficiaries."

The replacement hospital is 281,000 square feet and incorporates advances in healthcare delivery, improves patient life safety and increases efficiencies in hospital operations. It will also continue to meet the full spectrum of patient and family

centered medical and surgical care for all eligible beneficiaries throughout its lifespan.

The replacement hospital provides 42 beds, four operating rooms, two C-Section rooms, and improved diagnostic and ancillary capabilities to include MRI and CT scanning suites. (*USN*)



JENNIFER M. ZINGALIE

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Business

HHS grants extra time to enroll for health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—People who've started applying for health insurance but aren't able to finish before the March 31 enrollment deadline will get extra time, the Obama administration announced Tuesday.

"We are experiencing a surge in demand and are making sure that we will be ready to help consumers who may be in line by the deadline to complete enrollment, either online or over the phone," Health and Human Services spokesman Aaron Albright said.

The White House is scrambling to meet a goal of 6 million signed up through new online markets that offer subsidized private health insurance to people without access to coverage on the job. The HealthCare.gov website got more than 1 million visitors Monday, and the administration also wants to prevent a repeat of website problems that soured consumers last fall.

Officials said the grace period will be available to people on the honor system, meaning applicants will have to attest that special circumstances or complex cases prevented them from finishing by March 31.



This March 25, 2014, photo shows part of the website for HealthCare.gov as photographed in Washington.

It's unclear how long the extension will last. Some have urged the administration to allow until April 15, the tax filing deadline. People who are due refunds may be willing to put some of that money toward health care premiums.

The latest tweak to the health care rollout is certain to infuriate Republican critics of President Barack Obama's signature law. It follows delays of the law's requirements that medium-sized to large employers provide coverage or face fines. The GOP is mak-

ing repeal of the health care law its rallying cry in the fall congressional elections.

The White House had signaled last week that a grace period of some sort was in the works. Spokesman Jay Carney said Friday that people in line by the deadline would be able to complete their applications. Administration officials argue that's not extending the deadline. They compare it to the Election Day practice of allowing people to vote if they are in line when the polls close.

Officials hopeful oil spill not hard on wildlife

PORT BOLIVAR, Texas (AP)—Peering through binoculars and small portable telescopes mounted on tripods, two conservationists stood near the beach on Texas' Bolivar Peninsula on Tuesday, searching for birds that might have tar-like oil on them from a weekend spill in the nearby Houston Ship Channel.

Kristen Vale - who wore a cap with the words "Protect Piping Plovers," a reference to a type of shorebird - spotted a small brownish bird darting across the sand.

"A least sandpiper with oil on its belly," Vale told colleague Pete Deichmann, who jotted down the information in a green notebook. Both Vale and Deichmann work for the

Houston chapter of the National Audubon Society and were conducting a survey of the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, an area of salt marshes, mud flats and beach that can have up to 10,000 birds daily.

As environmental groups and officials continued to evaluate the possible impact of the spill on wildlife and the shoreline, the Coast Guard partially reopened the Houston Ship Channel on Tuesday after assessment teams deemed it clear enough for passage. The channel had been closed since Saturday, when a barge carrying 900,000 gallons of oil collided with a ship, causing the spill. Officials believe up to 170,000 gallons of tar-like oil might have spilled into the waters south of Houston.

Early on during what was to be a nearly three-hour survey, Vale and Deichmann said they were encouraged by initial results that seemed to indicate the effects of the oil on wildlife might not be as great as initially feared. State and federal officials seemed to echo those sentiments Tuesday as they said the effects of the oil spill on birds and other wildlife remains relatively low. But they remained cautious, saying they continue to find injured animals that they are cleaning and treating.

"We'll be here until the last bird has been recovered," said Richard Arnhart, with the Texas General Land Office's oil spill prevention division. "You are going to have various stages of oiled wildlife."

Birth control rule seems to divide Supreme Court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seemingly divided, the Supreme Court struggled Tuesday with the question of whether companies have religious rights, a case challenging President Barack Obama's health overhaul and its guarantee of birth control in employees' preventive care plans.

Peppering attorneys with questions in a 90-minute argument, the justices weighed the rights of for-profit companies against the rights of female employees. The discussion ranged to abortion, too, and even whether a female worker could be forced to wear an all-covering burka.

The outcome could turn on the views of Justice Anthony Kennedy, often the decisive vote, as his colleagues appeared otherwise to divide along liberal and conservative lines.

As the court heard the challenge brought by the Hobby Lobby chain of stores and others, demonstrators on both sides of the issue chanted outside in an early spring snow.

The justices upheld the overall health care law two years ago in a 5-4 ruling in which Chief Justice John Roberts cast the deciding vote in favor of Obama's signature domestic legislation. The latest case focuses on a sliver of the law dealing with

preventive services, including contraception, that must be offered in a company's plan at no extra charge.

The family-owned companies that are challenging the provision provide health insurance to their employees but object to covering certain methods of birth control that they say can work after conception, in violation of their religious beliefs.

The justices have never declared that for-profit corporations, as opposed to individuals, can hold religious beliefs. The companies in this case, and their backers, argue that a 1993 federal law on religious freedom extends to businesses.

Nation

2 more bodies recovered from Washington mudslide

ARLINGTON, Wash. (AP)—Rescuers slogging through muck and rain Tuesday in an increasingly desperate search for survivors of a massive mudslide instead recovered two bodies and believe they have located another eight, Washington state officials said.

The official death toll rose to 16, with the possibility of 24 dead once the other bodies are confirmed, Snohomish County District 21 Fire Chief Travis Hots said.

The grim discoveries further demoralized the four-day search, as the threat of flash

floods or another landslide loomed over the rescuers. With scores still missing from the slide that tore through a rural community north of Seattle on Saturday, authorities were working off a list of 176 people unaccounted for, though some names were believed to be duplicates.

That number will change because the power to the nearby logging town of Darrington was restored and more people have called in. An updated number would be available Wednesday, Snohomish County Emergency Department director John Pennington said.

"We're all still hoping for that miracle but we are preparing for the other possibility," Washington State Patrol spokesman Bob Calkins said Tuesday afternoon.

With the developments came word that a scientist working for the government had warned 15 years ago about the potential for a catastrophic landslide in the community.

The 1999 report by geomorphologist Daniel Miller raises questions about why residents were allowed to build homes in the area and whether officials had taken proper precautions.



A flag, put up by volunteers helping search the area, stands in the ruins of a home left at the end of a deadly mudslide from the now-barren hillside seen about a mile behind, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Oso, Wash.

3 Secret Service agents benched before Obama trip

By JOSH LEDERMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Secret Service sent three agents home from the Netherlands just before President Barack Obama's arrival after one agent was found inebriated in an Amsterdam hotel, the Secret Service said Tuesday.

The three agents were benched for "disciplinary reasons," said Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan, declining to elaborate. Donovan said the incident was prior to Obama's arrival Monday in the country and did not compromise the president's secu-

rity in any way.

Still, the incident represents a fresh blemish for an elite agency struggling to rehabilitate its reputation following a high-profile prostitution scandal and other allegations of misconduct. An inspector general's report in December concluded there was no evidence of widespread misconduct, in line with the service's longstanding assertion that it has no tolerance for inappropriate behavior.

The agents sent home from Amsterdam were placed on administrative leave, according to The Washington Post, which first reported the disciplinary

action. The newspaper said all three were on the Counter Assault Team, which defends the president if he comes under attack, and that one agent was a "team leader."

One agent was discovered highly intoxicated by staff at a hotel, who reported it to the U.S. Embassy, said a person familiar with the situation, who wasn't authorized to discuss the alleged behavior on the record and demanded anonymity. The other two agents were deemed complicit because they didn't intervene despite being in a position to assist the drunken agent or tamp down his behavior, the person said.

Honolulu police: Outlaw sex with prostitutes

HONOLULU (AP)—Honolulu police told a key Hawaii lawmaker Tuesday that they're OK with making it expressly illegal for officers to have sex with prostitutes, as long as undercover officers can still say they'll have sex so they can make arrests.

Honolulu police spokeswoman Teresa Bell told The Associated Press on Tuesday that officers have never been allowed to have sex with prostitutes under departmental rules, so making it illegal won't

change how officers operate.

"That's exactly what we wanted and how we've been conducting our investigations -with the verbal offer," Bell said.

Bell said officers who submitted written and oral testimony to a House committee earlier in the legislative session met Tuesday with Sen. Clayton Hee, the head of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Hee's committee is considering a bill cracking down on prostitution. The bill passed the House without a clause

that would have made sex with prostitutes illegal for officers after police lobbied to have the language removed, arguing it would inhibit undercover investigations by giving criminals knowledge of what police can and cannot do.

At a Senate hearing last week, lawmakers and members of the public expressed outrage at the exemption after the AP reported on police officers' lobbying to keep it unchanged. Hee vowed at the hearing to make the practice illegal.

Asia

Hunt for Flight 370 resumes in calmer seas

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—As frustration was setting in, calmer seas returned Wednesday and the search for the remains of Flight 370 began anew in remote waters of the Indian Ocean off western Australia.

Gale-force winds that forced an all-day delay Tuesday died down, allowing a total of 12 planes and two ships from the United States, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to resume the hunt for any pieces of the Malaysia Airlines jet - tangible evidence for the families seeking closure after more than two weeks of anguished uncertainty.

Although officials sharply narrowed the search zone based on the last satellite signals received from the Boeing 777, it was still estimated at 1.6 million square kilometers (622,000 square miles), an area bigger than Texas and Oklahoma combined.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told Nine network television on Wednesday: "We're throwing everything we



A Royal Australia Air Force AP-3C Orion takes off from RAAF Base Pearce in Perth, Australia to resume the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean, Wednesday, March 26, 2014.

have at this search."

"This is about the most inaccessible spot imaginable. It's thousands of kilometers from anywhere, but nevertheless, we are the closest nation. We are a capable nation. We will do what we can to solve this riddle," he later told Seven Network television.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which coordinates the search on Malaysia's

behalf, said Wednesday's search will focus on 80,000 square kilometers (30,900 square miles) of ocean. The search area is about 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) southwest of Perth.

Australia's deputy defense chief, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, told reporters Tuesday in Perth, the Australian west coast city that is the staging point for the search, that it is a massive challenge.

North Korea fires 2 missiles as its rivals meet

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea test-fired two medium-range ballistic missiles on Wednesday, South Korea and the U.S. said, a defiant challenge to a rare three-way summit of its rivals Seoul, Tokyo and Washington that focused on the North's security threat.

The launch of the Rodong missiles - for the first time since 2009 - violates U.N. Security Council resolutions and marks a big escalation from a series of shorter-range rocket launches the North has staged in recent weeks to protest ongoing annual military drills by the U.S. and South Korea that Pyongyang claims are invasion preparation.

The missiles flew about 650 kilometers (400 miles) off

North Korea's east coast early Wednesday morning, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said. It wasn't immediately clear where the missiles splashed down. Kim said the missiles were likely fired from a mobile launcher.

The North's arsenal of an estimated 300 Rodong missiles could in theory be fitted with nuclear warheads - once Pyongyang masters the ability to miniaturize atomic bombs - and, with a range of up to 1,300 kilometers (800 miles), could reach Tokyo and key U.S. military bases in Japan.

The U.S. State Department later confirmed the launch of Rodong missiles and said North Korea apparently didn't issue

any maritime warning.

The launch comes on the fourth anniversary of the sinking of a South Korean warship that Seoul and other nations blame on a North Korean torpedo. Pyongyang denies involvement in the attack, which killed 46 sailors.

It also poses a big challenge to what had been recently improving relations between Pyongyang and Seoul. A year after threatening each other with war, the bitter rivals had restored some trust and held reunions of families divided by the Korean War of the early 1950s. The Korean Peninsula remains officially at war because that war ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Large cocaine stash uncovered at PH wharf

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—A large stash of high-grade cocaine was uncovered in the Philippines when several hidden packets tumbled from the ceiling of a shipping container in a private wharf, officials said Monday. The find made Saturday totaled more than 50 kilograms (110 pounds) and an estimated worth about 300 million pesos (\$6.7 million). Mayor Rodrigo Duterte of Davao city said he believed the Philippines was a transit point for the drugs, which could be intended for more lucrative markets in the United States or Europe, and the government would seek Interpol help to determine the drugs' origin and destination.

Myanmar census could inflame ethnic tensions

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—As Myanmar continues its transition from decades of military rule and self-imposed isolation, it is about to carry out

a census that experts say is crucial for national planning and development, but also likely to inflame already soaring ethnic and religious tensions. No one knows exactly how many people live in the predominantly Buddhist nation. The generally accepted figure is around 60 million, but that is based on extrapolations from Myanmar's last census, conducted 30 years ago, a count believed by experts to have significantly underrepresented the Muslim community and excluded large swaths of the country plagued by civil strife. President Thein Sein's government says the upcoming census, which will see around 100,000 enumerators going door-to-door from March 30 to April 10 with a complex 41-point questionnaire, will give "an accurate picture of how many people are living in the country." That will help policymakers determine what resources are needed, from education and health care to housing and transport, as Myanmar continues its delicate transition to democracy. The information will also help guide foreign investors.

World

Busloads of Ukrainian troops leave Crimea

FEODOSIA, Crimea (AP)—As former comrades saluted them from outside a base overrun by Russian forces, Ukrainian marines in Crimea piled into buses Tuesday to head back to the mainland.

It was a low-key exit from this eastern Black Sea port, with fewer than a dozen friends and relatives on hand to bid the marines farewell. A troop transporter bearing black Russian military plates trailed the bus as it pulled away.

Their departure came as Ukraine's defense minister stepped down after harsh criticism for authorities' often-hesitant reaction to Russia's annexation of Crimea, which was formalized following a hastily organized referendum this month. And while Ukraine struggled to deal with its humbling by Russia, it also faced the menace of seething Ukrainian nationalists angered by the police killing of a leading radical.

Troops were given the stark choice of either staying in Crimea and switching allegiance to serve under Russia's military, or leaving the peninsula to keep their jobs with the Ukrainian defense forces.

"The Russians threatened, intimidated, bullied and tried to get us to switch sides to Russia. It has been very difficult to resist this enormous pressure but I have made a choice that I can live with," Senior Lt. Anatoly Mozgovoy told The Associated Press after arriving in the Ukrainian city of Genichesk.

"We were greeted as heroes in Ukraine. I was able to breathe freely for the first time in months," the 30-year-old Mozgovoy said.

He said he left behind his wife and 7-month-old daughter, who were staying with his mother-in-law in Crimea until he finds out where he is being permanently deployed.

So far, 131 Ukrainian marines have left Crimea, the defense ministry said. They were being temporarily stationed at a military barracks in Genichesk but their final destination was still unclear.

At a summit on nuclear security in The Hague, Netherlands, President Barack Obama said Russian troops would not be dislodged from Crimea by force.

He noted that one of the achievements of his first nu-

clear summit in 2010 "was Ukraine's decision to remove all of its highly enriched uranium from its nuclear fuel sites."

"Had that not happened, those dangerous nuclear materials would still be there now. And the difficult situation we're dealing with in Ukraine today would involve yet another level of concern," Obama said.

In an address to parliament in the capital, Kiev, Defense Minister Igor Tenyukh denied that he had failed to issue clear instructions to his troops but reserved the right to resign. The order to withdraw from Crimea was issued Monday, a week after many bases had already been stormed and seized by pro-Russian forces.

Lawmakers initially refused Tenyukh's resignation but later accepted it and replaced him with Col. Gen. Mykhailo Koval.

About 4,300 Ukrainian servicemen and 2,200 of their relatives have asked to leave Crimea, Tenyukh said Tuesday. That means about two-thirds of the 18,800 military personnel and relatives that he said were stationed on the Black Sea peninsula were taking their chances in Crimea.

Obama: Nuclear blast a bigger concern than Russia

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—President Barack Obama says he's more concerned about the prospect of a nuclear weapon exploding in New York City than Russia's recent actions and called President Vladimir Putin's country "a regional power."

During a news conference Tuesday, a reporter asked Obama whether his opponent in the last presidential campaign, Mitt Romney, had a point when he described Russia as America's top geopolitical foe. At the time, Obama criticized that characterization. Since then, Russia

has annexed Crimea.

"With respect to Mr. Romney's assertion that Russia is our No. 1 geopolitical foe, the truth of the matter is that America has got a whole lot of challenges. Russia is a regional power that is threatening some of its immediate neighbors not out of strength, but out of weakness," Obama said at the conclusion of a nuclear security summit.

He later said Russia's actions were a problem but didn't pose the top national security threat to the United States.

"I continue to be much more

concerned when it comes to our security with the prospect of a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan," he said, "which is part of the reason why the United States, showing its continued international leadership, has organized a forum over the last several years that's been able to help eliminate that threat in a consistent way."

While calling Russia the nation's top geopolitical foe during the campaign for the White House, Romney said Iran was the top security threat to the U.S. because of its nuclear ambitions.

NASA: Snag delays arrival of crew at space station

BAIKONUR, Kazakhstan (AP)—An engine snag has delayed the arrival of a Russian spacecraft carrying three astronauts to the International Space Station until Thursday, NASA said on Wednesday.

A rocket carrying Russians Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemyev and American Steve Swanson to the space station blasted off successfully early Wednesday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

The Soyuz booster rocket lifted off as scheduled at 3:17 a.m. local time Wednesday (2117 GMT Tuesday), lighting up the night skies over the steppe with a giant fiery tail. It entered a designated orbit about 10 minutes

after the launch and was expected to reach the space station in six hours. All onboard systems were working flawlessly, and the crew was feeling fine.

But NASA said in a statement on its website that the arrival was delayed after a 24-second engine burn that was necessary to adjust the Soyuz spacecraft's orbiting path "did not occur as planned."

The crew is in good spirits and is in no danger, but will have to wait until Thursday for the Soyuz TMA-12M to arrive and dock at the space station, NASA said. The arrival is now scheduled for 7:58 EDT (2358 GMT) Thursday.

Russian spacecraft used to

routinely travel two days to reach the orbiting laboratory before last year. Wednesday would have been only the fifth time that a crew would have taken the six-hour "fast-track" route to the station.

NASA said that Moscow flight control has yet to determine why the engine burn did not occur.

The three astronauts traveling in the Soyuz will be greeted by Japan's Koichi Wakata, NASA's Rick Mastracchio and Russia's Mikhail Tyurin, who have been at the station since November. Wakata is the first Japanese astronaut to lead the station. The new crew is scheduled to stay in orbit for six months.

Focus

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's judiciary is rife with judges who are sharp opponents of Islamists, and they are operating amid a media frenzy demanding swift and harsh verdicts against the Muslim Brotherhood.

The result, judicial experts say, is this week's stunning verdict sentencing hundreds of suspected Islamists to death after a cursory mass trial, a decision likely to be overturned but clearly intended to send a deterrent message.

"The judge is a citizen that lives in a society and can feel the nation's pulse and knows that people are looking for quick trials," Rifaat el-Sayed, the former head of Cairo's appeal court, one of the country's major courts, told The Associated Press. "If there is a mistake from a judge, there are means to correct it."

The rulings Monday by a criminal court in the provincial capital of Minya brought heavy international criticism from the U.N., United States and European Union. Amnesty International called the verdicts "grotesque," and Egyptian rights groups were stunned. The court delivered the sweeping sentences against more than 520 defendants after only one session hearing testimony—without hearing the defense's case.

But the verdicts were hailed as a triumph for justice by much of Egypt's media, which have been cheerleaders for the crackdown on the Brotherhood since the military's July ouster of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

"Let them be 10,000, 20,000 (sentenced to death)," presenter Ahmed Moussa declared on private Sada al-Balad TV. "Those who have killed, we shouldn't be upset about them. Why are you upset, Mr. rights activist? Where were you when martyrs were killed? Dragged on the floor? ... What do you expect from the judiciary? To give salute to terrorism? Or are you supporting terrorism?"

On Tuesday, the same Minya judge opened a second mass trial of 683 suspected Islamists on similar charges—murder and attempted murder in connection to an August attack on a police station. After one day of hearing witnesses—with defense lawyers boycotting the proceedings—the judge declared he would rule in the next hearing, on April 28.

The sentences, however, raised a red flag even within the judiciary, where many said they were certain the verdicts will be overturned because of irregularities in the trial. One current judge on a high-level court called it "an individual case"



In this Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 file photo, an Egyptian soccer fan of Al-Ahly club displays scales to fans celebrating a court verdict that returned 21 death penalties in last years soccer violence, inside the club premises in Cairo, Egypt.

Egypt's mass verdicts show pressure on judiciary

By SARAH EL DEEB and LEE KEATH

Associated Press

of a judge aiming to show "his political allegiance" and "send a particular message. He knows it will be annulled." The judge spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because judiciary rules bar him from discussing another court's case.

"But the manner and the way the session was managed has seriously harmed the reputation of the judiciary," he said.

Amid the uproar, the Justice Ministry issued a statement underlining that the judiciary is independent. It said the ruling was not a final verdict, saying the court can change it after the country's top Islamic official, the mufti, issues his opinion on the death sentences, and that the sentences can be appealed before the Court of Cassation, which can order a retrial.

So far, there has not been a clear trend in the few verdicts reached so far in the multiple trials of Morsi supporters. One court sentenced 12 students to 17 years for rioting on university campus. In another trial of 62 Islamists on charges of violence during a Cairo protest, the court acquitted all the defendants for lack of evidence.

Egypt's judiciary, made up of nearly 15,000 judges and pros-

ecutors, has traditionally been one of the country's strongest institutions. During the 29-year rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, the judiciary was stacked with his loyalists—many of whom remain in place and hold the top judicial positions. The government had considerable influence on promotions and advancement in the system, with Mubarak appointing the head of the constitutional court.

Still, the courts did not always follow his lead. During Mubarak's crackdowns on the Muslim Brotherhood, regular courts often freed defendants or gave them light sentences, so Mubarak turned to military or exceptional security courts to get harsher and longer sentences. A number of reformist judges were sharply critical of voting fraud during 2005 and 2006 elections, starting a movement for greater judicial independence that was one of the various elements that coalesced to trigger the 2011 protests against Mubarak.

During the past three years of turmoil since the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, the judiciary has been dragged repeatedly into political battles. It was only after further large protests

that Hosni Mubarak was put on trial over killings of protesters during the uprising. His trial has dragged on for more than three years, and he is currently facing a retrial after the first verdict, a life sentence was overturned in appeal.

The judiciary clashed fiercely with Morsi, who in 2012 became Egypt's first freely elected president and whose presidency saw political domination by the Brotherhood. Morsi and the Brotherhood frequently accused the judiciary of being Mubarak holdovers opposed to their rule, while judges accused him of trying to dominate the judiciary. He locked horns with the judges by naming a prosecutor general loyal to him, and his backers sought to push opponents in the judiciary into retirement. Morsi issued a decree declaring his decisions immune from judiciary review, prompting thousands of judges to go on strike and widening public protests against his rule.

Now after Morsi's ouster, any expression of criticism among judges of the mainstream support for the military is at personal peril.

Some 75 judges who spoke out against "the removal of a

legitimately elected president" and "the attack on constitutional legitimacy" were suspended from the Judges Club, an influential association of judges, and are under investigation for disciplinary action for engaging in political activity. Other judges who publicly backed the protests calling for Morsi's ouster that prompted the military to remove him saw no such reprisals. Some of the reform judges who were part of the judicial independence movement under Mubarak are now depicted by rivals as Islamists—which some were, but not all.

El-Sayed, the former judge, depicted the disciplinary measures as unifying the judiciary and removing political influence.

"Since Jan. 25, 2011, the judicial family has been united, become one fabric and partisan and divisions are finished," he said. "We managed to protect the independence of the judiciary and anyone who violated those lofty principles has been sent to disciplinary committees."

The current judge said there is little direct interference from the government in specific decisions of judges—but that the hand of the executive

still has control over much of the profession.

The new constitution passed after Morsi's ouster more deeply enshrines professional independence for the judicial system, giving judges greater say over their own affairs—in part a reaction to Morsi's rule. Judges now choose the prosecutor general and members of the Supreme Constitutional Court and the judiciary must approve all legislation over the profession before parliament can pass it. Still, the justice minister appoints administrative heads of primary courts, who in turn can determine which judge will hear which cases. That, he says, opens the door to bias by picking judges known for certain beliefs. With new courts assigned terrorism related cases, many fear the speed and verdicts could be even faster.

In the courtroom, judges have considerable power and leeway in determining procedures during their trials and in issuing verdicts, even if they may be overruled later. Judges issue verdicts in all trials, since there are no jury trials in Egypt.

They are also backed up by vague laws against "insulting the judiciary." One prominent liberal former lawmaker faces trial on charges of insulting the judiciary after he criticized a court ruling as "politicized" on his Twitter account earlier this year.

Part of what has raised concern recently from critics is that many judges are former police officers. Also, all judges are trained as prosecutors first.

Moreover, the current judge said, Egypt's court system is overwhelmed with cases amid a crackdown that has arrested some 16,000 people. Lawyers say they are hard pressed to keep up with procedures and defendants. In one day, there could be as many as two mass trials in the same courtroom.

Amid the rush, prosecutors have come under criticism for putting together shoddy cases for trial. For example, there has been heavy public pressure to prosecute Mubarak-era officials, particularly police over the killing of protesters during the anti-Mubarak uprising and later protests. However, cases against police have largely been thrown out for lack of evidence. The judge said that was because prosecution cases were weak.

In other cases, judges may be willing to base rulings solely on the prosecutors' cases, the judge said.

"Before the revolution, a murder case would be vetted in details, with evidence and review," he said. "The trial would take time, and the public would be watching closely. Now the number of deaths is huge. They are meant to investigate all the circumstances. How do? And who would?"

Environment

Disinfectants and sterilizers as pesticides

There are various types of pesticides, some obvious, some not. A pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating any pest. Many household products are pesticides and can include kitchen, laundry and bath disinfectants and sanitizers. Products that kill mold and mildew are also considered pesticides.

These types of pesticides are called antimicrobial pesticides. Antimicrobial pesticides are products intended to be used to (a) disinfect, sanitize, reduce or mitigate growth or development of microbial organisms or (b) protect inanimate objects, industrial processes or systems, surfaces, water or other chemical substances from contamination, fouling or deterioration caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae, or slime. Antimicrobial pesticides

come in a wide variety of forms, including toilet bowl sanitizers, swimming pool chemicals, and bleach. These products can be used to treat surfaces, air and water to prevent, reduce, or kill dangerous harmful and non-harmful bacteria, fungi, algae and viruses.

Antimicrobial pesticides are categorized based on the type of microbial pest they are designed to reduce or eliminate. Some products are intended to kill certain pests like algae and odor-causing bacteria that are generally not a threat to human health.

There are 3 types of "public health" antimicrobial pesticides:

STERILIZERS are products used to destroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life including fungi, viruses, all forms of bacteria and their spores. They are the strongest type of public health antimicrobials. Sterilizers are gener-

ally used in medical and research settings where the presence of microbes must be prevented as much as possible.

DISINFECTANTS are products used on hard inanimate surfaces and objects to destroy or inactivate the growth of bacteria and fungi. Some disinfectants target specific viruses. Disinfectants are used in medical and residential settings and are used to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces such as toilets, bathtubs, kitchen floors, linens and other hard surfaces.

SANITIZERS are products used to reduce microorganisms from inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe as determined by public health codes or regulations. Sanitizers are the weakest type of public-health antimicrobials. Some sanitizers can be used for locations where food products are placed and stored and other sanitizers can only be

used for non-food contact surfaces like carpets or in air.

The DEQ Pesticide Management branch is charged with the responsibility to regulate the importation, sale and distribution of pesticides, legal or illegal to ensure public health and a clean and healthy environment. DEQ staff regularly inspects business establishments for any misbranded products. Should misbranded items be found, all misbranded pesticides will be confiscated and penalties may be assessed.

The CNMI Pesticide Regulations are available to any interested party. Call or visit the Division of Environmental Quality Pesticide Management branch at 664-8522, located along Chalan Pale Arnold at the Gualo Rai Center or visit the DEQ website at www.deq.gov.mp. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. **(BECQ)**



Humatak Watershed Adventure connects Guam residents to their natural resources



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than 60 students from Simon Sanchez High School and the University of Guam mug for the camera during a Humatak Watershed Adventure along Fouha Bay in Guam.

Over the weekend, more than 60 students from Simon Sanchez High School and the University of Guam embarked on a Humatak Watershed Adventure. Participants learned about natural resources, environmental threats and community resilience. The adventure started in the upper watershed showcasing sources of erosion and concluded in Fouha Bay, allowing participants to observe the many connections of Guam's watershed ecosystems.

"Accelerated erosion is the main environmental threat in most of our southern villages, wiping out native forests and smothering coral reefs to death. Arson fires, many caused by deer poachers, and invasive wild pigs are the main causes of erosion," Humatak Project Coordinator Austin Shel-

ton explained to participants.

The purpose of Humatak Watershed Adventures is to connect the community to their natural resources, which are foundations of island culture. Humatak Watershed Adventures are part of the environmental education

over 1,600 service hours planting trees and installing sediment filters in an effort to revive native forests and coral reefs.

Busing for the adventure was provided by the Guam Environmental Protection Agency. Umatac Mayor Johnny A. Quinata provided road safety support. Guest speakers came from the University of Guam and the Guam Coastal Management Program. The Kewalo Marine Laboratory of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Sponsored Coastal Ocean Research, and the Western Pacific Coral Reef Institute at UOG are among the funding partners of the Humatak Project. **(UOG)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Website: www.humatakproject.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/humatakproject
- Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/humatakproject
- Twitter and Instagram: @HumatakProject

outreach efforts of the Humatak Project, a community initiative dedicated to reviving Guam's watersheds, coral reefs and fisheries. Since Humatak Project restoration initiatives began in 2011, volunteers have contributed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Humatak Watershed Adventure observe the many connections of Guam's watershed ecosystems.

Life & Style

Japanese architect Shigeru Ban wins Pritzker Prize

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Japanese architect Shigeru Ban, who has combined a talent for innovative design and experimental use of everyday materials with extensive humanitarian efforts around the globe, has won the 2014 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

Ban, 56, is the seventh architect from Japan to receive the honor, which will be officially awarded in June. For two decades, he has rushed to the site of disasters - for example, the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan, or the 1994 conflict in Rwanda - to construct temporary relief shelters. He has often used cardboard paper tubes as building materials, since they are easily found, easily transported and can be water-proofed or fire-proofed.

Ban's relief work has not been limited to creating living shelters. In the wake of the 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy, for example, he created a temporary auditorium so the city's musicians could continue to play. And after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, he created partitions for existing emergency shelters so families could have some privacy.

Outside his humanitarian

work, Ban's noted projects have included the Centre Pompidou-Metz, a modern art museum in Metz, France, that features a remarkable curved roof made of timber—and inspired by a Chinese hat.

In its citation, the Pritzker jury noted Ban's unique approach to materials.

"He is able to see in standard components and common materials, such as paper tubes, packing materials or shipping containers," the jury wrote, "opportunities to use them in new ways."

It noted his "Naked House" in Saitama, Japan, in which the architect used clear corrugated plastic on the external walls and white acrylic stretched across a timber frame to create a home that questions "the traditional notion of rooms and consequently domestic life."

Ban's "Curtain Wall House" in Tokyo uses two-story high white curtains to open or close



This March 20, 2014 photo shows Tokyo-born architect Shigeru Ban, 56, the recipient of the 2014 Pritzker Architecture Prize, in New York.

the home to the outside. Similarly, his "Metal Shutter Houses" in New York's Chelsea neighborhood feature a unique metal shutter system to open up apartments to the city air.

But it is Ban's humanitarian work that the Pritzker jury emphasized in announcing the prize, which will be formally awarded June 13 at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. "Where others may see insurmountable

challenges, Ban sees a call to action," the citation said.

Speaking in an interview this week in one of the distinctive "Metal Shutter House" apartments, Ban, who has offices in Tokyo, Paris and New York, explained that despite his extensive work for private clients, his humanitarian efforts are of utmost importance to him.

"This is my life's work," he said.

Architects, Ban noted, are lucky because they always work for people who are happy - as people generally are when they're building a house. But he's always felt that architects need to play a broader social role.

"After I became an architect I was very disappointed in our profession," he said, "because we are mostly always working for privileged people, with pow-

er and money. So I thought that architects needed to have more of a social role. I thought we could use our experience and our knowledge for people who need help in a natural or man-made disaster. Even something like temporary housing, we can make more comfortable and more beautiful."

In times of disaster, building materials can be difficult and expensive to procure. That's why, Ban said, his favorite building material is something most people throw out: cardboard tubes.

"Even in Kigali, Rwanda, when I was building shelters, I found them," he said. "I'm not inventing anything new, I'm just using existing material differently."

In 2011, when Japan was rocked by an earthquake and tsunami, Ban first created partitions to help families keep their privacy in shelters like gymnasiums. Then he built, on the grounds of a baseball stadium, a three-story temporary shelter to house 19 families.

After the Kobe earthquake of 1995, he built a "Paper Church" which remained there for 10 years, he said, because of affection for it. Ultimately it was dismantled to make way for a permanent structure and rebuilt in Taiwan as a community center.

Investigators: Unsafe speed caused Walker crash

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Porsche carrying "Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker was traveling up to 94 mph when it went out of control on a suburban street and crashed, killing the actor and his friend, according to an investigation by law enforcement agencies into the November accident.

The sports car driven by Roger Rodas slammed into a light pole with a 45 mph speed limit sign and burst into flames. Walker and Rodas died at the scene.

Investigators with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's De-

partment and California Highway Patrol concluded that unsafe speed, not mechanical problems, caused the Nov. 30 crash, the sheriff's department said Tuesday.

Based on post-crash calculations, accident reconstruction specialists with the Highway Patrol believe Rodas was driving his 2005 Porsche Carrera GT between 81 mph and 94 mph, according to their investigative report. The CHP declined comment.

The Associated Press report-

ed in December that investigators had found no evidence that the car had mechanical problems and had ruled out debris or other roadway conditions.

Subsequently, Porsche sent engineers to California to review the rare car's wreckage. Though it was badly mangled and burned, the engineers were able to do a thorough analysis. They found no problems with the car's electrical systems, brakes, throttle, fuel system, steering, suspension or other systems.

"The results of the investi-



Walker

'The Young and the Restless' celebrates 41 years

By BETH HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Young and the Restless" took a break from love, deception and backstabbing to celebrate the soap's 41st anniversary on Tuesday.

Led by longtime stars Eric Braeden, Melody Thomas Scott and Peter Bergman, the cast and crew gathered to celebrate a day early. The CBS show has been daytime's top-rated soap since December 1988 and was recently renewed through 2017.

"We've been very fortunate

that we're still number one and our ratings are even higher than they have been," Scott said.

A chocolate cake in the shape of the number 1 and covered in white icing with a red "YR" logo was cut on the set at Television City in Hollywood.

"It's a giant chunk of television history," said Bergman, who plays scheming Jack Abbott. "There aren't many 41-year-old shows out there."

No one from the show's debut on March 26, 1973—when it was just 30 minutes long—remains with the show. Jeanne Cooper, who arrived six months later to play grand

dame Katherine Chancellor, died in May at age 84. But she is remembered fondly by her former co-stars.

"She's up there orchestrating things for sure," Scott said.

Braeden is in his 34th year playing ruthless tycoon Victor Newman, who is re-married yet again to Scott's character, Nikki Newman.

"Crazy as it is, we love each other," Scott said of their on-screen coupling. "We're not anywhere near the end of the road on that."

Joining the celebration was Lee Phillip Bell, who co-created the show with her late husband,

gation show that, according to all the available evidence, this crash was caused by dangerous driving at speeds much too high for the road in question," Porsche said in a written statement. "We stand by our Carrera GT and by the investigation."

The conclusion about the speed was based on a "yaw" mark that one of the car's tires left on the road in an area of industrial office parks in Santa Clarita, about 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Witnesses told a sheriff's deputy that they thought the car could have been traveling in excess of 100 mph.

Bill. Their daughter, Lauralee Bell, plays Christine, a role she has returned to at various times over the years.

At 84, Bell still comes to the studio a few hours daily to answer fan mail and take phone calls, but other than her daughter, no one from the Bell family works on the show anymore.

"She usually only points out the things that she's not happy with and says, 'Maybe your father wouldn't have done that,'" Lauralee Bell said of her mother. "It's kind of fun every once in a while when she says, 'Oh, they're in bed again.'"

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Rare Tennessee Williams story published

NEW YORK (AP)—Before his mother became the model for Blanche DuBois of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and his sister the inspiration for Laura Wingfield of "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams drew upon a college girlfriend - if only in name - to tell a story of desire, drunkenness and regret.

"Crazy Night" is a work of short fiction unseen by the general public until this month's release in the spring issue of The Strand Magazine, a quarterly based in Birmingham, Mich. The story is narrated by a college freshman who confides about his romance with a senior, Anna Jean. Williams, while attending the University of Missouri at Columbia, briefly dated fellow student Anna Jean O'Donnell and wrote poetry about her.

"It ('Crazy Night') seems to have been written when Williams was rather young, probably around the 1930s," said Strand managing editor Andrew Gulli, who has previously unearthed works by Mark Twain, Joseph Heller and Robert Louis Stevenson.

"The funny thing is that Williams in his notebooks and memoirs went into a lot of detail about his love affairs but with Anna Jean he made only a pass-

ing mention. Could this be the missing piece of the puzzle?"

"Crazy Night" is set on an unnamed campus in the early '30s, after the stock market crash of October 1929 and before the 1933 repeal of Prohibition, when "students graduating or flunking out of college had practically every reason for getting drunk and little or nothing that was fit to drink." The title refers to a ritual at the end of spring term during which students are expected to binge on alcohol and sex, a bacchanal "feverishly gay" on the surface but "really the saddest night of the year."

"There is a theme of disappointment, the old 'mendacity theme' from 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,'" Gulli says. "He could show how beneath the cloak of respectability his characters had horrible insecurities and dark secrets. Williams was a master of showing the desperation and need humans have for companionship and was equally skilled at showing how relationships go sour and lead to cynicism."

Williams was celebrated for his plays, but he wrote short stories for decades, many appearing in the 1985 anthology "Tennessee Williams: Collected Stories." In the book's introduction, Williams' friend Gore Vidal wrote that the stories were essentially a fictionalized diary for Williams, who died in 1983.

Gwyneth Paltrow, Chris Martin announce separation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, one of Hollywood's highest profile couples, are separating after more than a decade of marriage, according to a message posted on the "Iron Man" actress's blog Tuesday.

Paltrow, 41, and Martin, 37, were married in 2003. The actress and the musician have two children: daughter Apple, 9; and son Moses, 7.

"We have been working hard for well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate,"



This Jan. 11, 2014 file photo shows actress Gwyneth Paltrow, left, and her husband, singer Chris Martin at the 3rd Annual Sean Penn & Friends Help Haiti Home Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

'Fifty Shades,' 'Fast,' 'Dumber' teased in Vegas

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Universal Pictures had a strong start at the box office this year, with "Lone Survivor" grossing more than \$124 million and "Ride Along" bringing in nearly \$146 million globally.

The run could continue for the studio that previewed its upcoming slate of films on Tuesday at the annual movie theater convention CinemaCon.

"A healthy slate is a diverse one," said Donna Langley, chairman of Universal.

"Hits don't come just in summer and Christmas," added Nikki Rocco, president of distribution at Universal. "We should use the full calendar to create opportunities for films to find an audience and create a habit of movie-going that isn't seasonal, but year-round."

Jolie surprises CinemaCon to tout 'Unbroken'

By JESSICA HERNDON
AP FILM WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Angelina Jolie took to the stage at CinemaCon, the annual convention of theater exhibitors, on Tuesday to reveal footage from the upcoming survival saga "Unbroken," which she directed and produced.

"I wanted to make this film because its message is one that we all need now more than ever," said Jolie in front of the crowd of theater owners at the Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Shot in Sydney last year, the film tells the true story of Lou Zamperini, a World War II hero and track star who ran in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Zamperini, who is played by Jack

Here's a look at three of the studio's most promising films, from a racy love story to the return of a few beloved ensemble casts:

■ "Fifty Shades of Grey," directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson and starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan. The first look at the trailer for the spicy romance based on E.L. James' best-seller revealed a tale that appears far sweeter than it is steamy. The suave Christian Grey (Dornan) sweeps the ordinary-looking Anastasia Steele (Johnson) off her feet with a joyride in his helicopter, a visit to his swanky Seattle apartment, and a fancy makeover. Anastasia properly transforms from plain Jane to sexy sophisticate. "Why are you trying to change me?" she asks her new lover. "I'm not," he replies. "It's you who is changing me." But it's not all sentimental. The camera pans over Christian's collec-

tion of S&M toys as Beyonce's sleek and sexy "Haunted" plays in the background. The film is set for release on Valentine's Day of 2015.

■ "Fast & Furious 7," directed James Wan and starring Paul Walker, Vin Diesel, Michelle Rodriguez and Tyrese Gibson. We may not have a hard and fast answer for how the studio will finish the film since Walker died before production concluded, but those scenes he was able to shoot definitely find their way into the seventh installment of the franchise. In the trailer, Walker, along with his crew of fierce drivers, stun viewers with a stunt involving driving cars out of a helicopter and safely landing with the help of parachutes. Flashy fight scenes and plenty of bare skin are once again on display. The seventh installment is scheduled to hit theaters on April 10, 2015.

O'Connell, spent a harrowing 47 days afloat in the Pacific Ocean following the 1943 crash of his U.S. military plane. He spent the following two years as a prisoner of war after washing up behind Japanese enemy lines.

Developed originally by Universal Pictures in 1957, the biopic was supposed to star Tony Curtis, said Universal chairwoman Donna Langley before introducing Jolie. But after many false starts, the project never took shape. It wasn't until Zamperini's story caught the attention of Jolie, that the film really began to evolve.

"She fought for it and earned the right to direct it," said Langley, who called Jolie "a true filmmaker."

"Unbroken," to be released

in December, is based on Laura Hillenbrand's book "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption," which chronicles Zamperini's life.

"Lou Zamperini is the toughest man I have ever met," said Jolie. "He's a fighter and true hero. He is also a man of faith, full of love and humility. He sounds perfect. But he wasn't always. Smoking, stealing and drinking by the time he was 9, he was convinced he was worth nothing and full of darkness."

The footage teased revealed affecting scenes of Zamperini's struggles, from his efforts to escape from his military plane after it crashed into the ocean, to the beatings he underwent as a prisoner.

ter Jade and his grandchildren, Mazie and Zak, read psalms. Bambrough's daughter, Hannah, read a Shakespearean sonnet.

"Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" was sung by Bernard Fowler, with Dave Stewart on guitar.

Scott, both a designer and a longtime stylist, committed suicide on March 17 in New York. She was cremated, per her wishes.

read the message titled "Conscious Uncoupling" on Goop.com.

It was signed by both Paltrow and Martin, and a spokeswoman for Martin confirmed the separation.

"We are parents first and foremost, to two incredibly wonderful children, and we ask for their and our space and privacy to be respected at this difficult time," the message also said. "We have always conducted our relationship privately, and we hope that as we consciously uncouple and co-parent, we will be able to continue in the same manner."

Martin, the Grammy-winning lead vocalist of Coldplay, and Paltrow, who won an Oscar for her performance in "Shakespeare in Love," shared an extraordinary level of fame in different entertainment mediums. The duo frequently accompanied each other to public events, such as the Golden Globes ceremony and the Help Haiti Home gala earlier this year, but they rarely posed together on red carpets.

Paltrow recently reprised her guest starring role as substitute teacher Holly Holiday on "Glee."

Coldplay is set to release its next album, "Ghost Stories," in May.

Tiger that injured Roy of Siegfried & Roy dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mantecore, the white tiger that injured Roy Horn on a Las Vegas stage over a decade ago, has died. He was 17.

A statement released by illusionist duo Siegfried & Roy on Tuesday said the tiger died from an illness on March 19. No other details were provided.

The average lifespan for such a tiger in captivity is 15 to 26 years, according to the San Diego Zoo's website.

Horn was injured by the 380-pound tiger called Mantecore, whose name is often referred to as Montecore, during a live Siegfried & Roy performance at the Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas in 2003.

Horn, 69, and partner Siegfried Fischbacher, 74, have said they believe Mantecore sensed Horn was having a mini-stroke and was dragging him to safety, rather than attacking him. Animal experts have disputed that theory.

After a two-year review, federal investigators never determined what set off the tiger.

"I will forever believe it was his concern for my safety and well-being that caused him to act as he did on that night long ago," Horn said in a statement. "We spent many hours together and he never failed to bring me great joy and wonderment. It was my great honor to be beside him at the end. He is now playing with his siblings in white tiger heaven."

Friends urge grandma to let younger grandson be adopted

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 62 and own my own home. I have legal guardianship of my eldest grandson, who is 5. Another grandchild is 2 1/2 and in foster care. I would like to keep both children together because I have been told that in the long run it is better so they won't lose contact with each other.

Some friends of mine have been telling me I should let the little one get adopted through the state in a closed adoption. This is really traumatic for me and I'm not sure what to do.

Please give me some advice. I love both of my grandchildren and want the best for them, now and in the long term.

QUANDRIFIED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR QUANDRIFIED: Many grandparents raise their grandchildren successfully. If your health is good, and you have a high energy level and relatives who can provide respite when you need it, have both of your grandchildren live with you. If not, you must consider what could happen to them if something should happen to you.

AARP can be a helpful resource. It offers information on a wide variety of issues related to raising grandchildren, financial assistance and advocacy. To find out more, go to www.aarp.org/grandparents.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for about 10 years and have dated far more since my divorce than I did before I married. The marriage ended because my wife was emotionally abusive.

What disturbs me is that somehow I either attract, or am attracted to, emotionally abusive women. They are usually successful, confident, good looking and controlling, and the results are always the same. The relationships don't last long. How do I stop being attracted to the same type of partner?

REPEATING PATTERNS

DEAR REPEATING: In order to break any cycle, a person needs to understand how the pattern became established in the first place. People are usually attracted to the familiar, and it may have something to do with the dynamics of the family in which you grew up. Ask your doctor for a referral to a psychologist who can help you to understand, so you won't make the same mistake again. It's the quickest fix for what ails you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I take pride in my looks, and when I go to parties, the dresses and accessories I choose. I am often asked where they came from, and I feel the question is rude and inappropriate. Am I being rude to evade the question, or is there a proper response when I'm asked?

TIME AND PLACE

DEAR TIME AND PLACE: When someone asks where you found an item you're wearing, it is usually intended as a compliment because the person would like to find something similar. If you prefer not to share that information, smile and thank the person for the compliment, then change the subject.

■■■

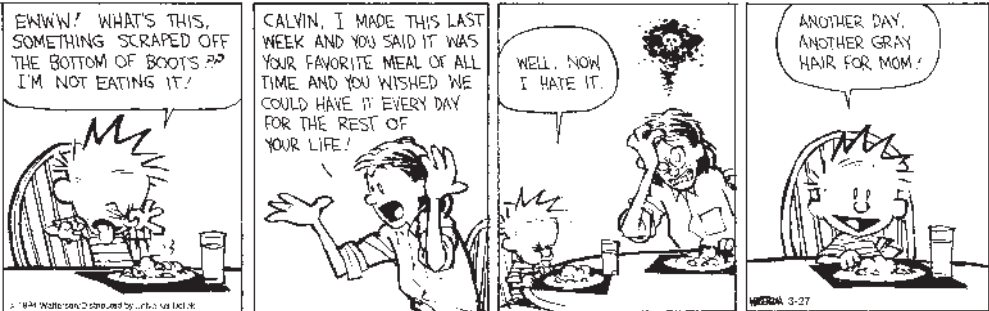
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

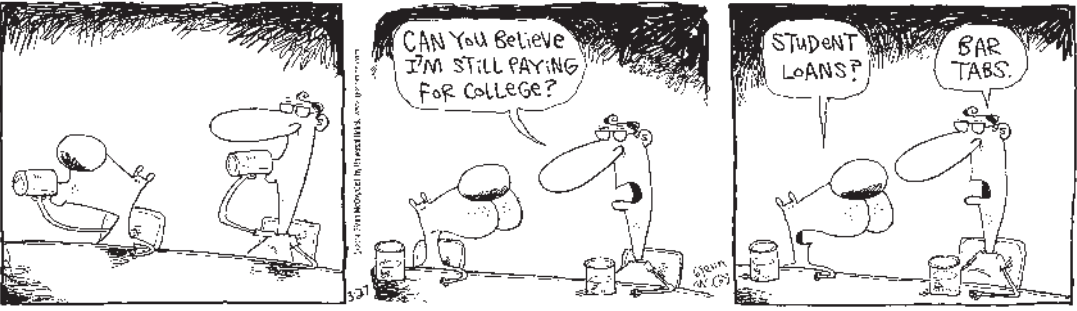
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Story teller

5 Intimides

9 Cushion

12 Malaria symptom

13 Theater award

14 Flamenco cheer

15 Bristly rodent

17 Wade opponent

18 Launderer's challenges

19 Dissuade

21 Italian river

22 Tier

24 Use a paper towel

27 Cover

28 Designer Spade

31 Green, in a sense

32 Eggs

33 Suffix with "president"

34 "Perry Mason" star

36 Energy

37 Computer key

38 Macadamized

40 "Little Women" woman

41 Island greeting

43 Auditory stimulants

47 Luau

48 Vase

51 "Help!"

52 Notion

53 Advantage

54 out a living

55 Arrears

56 Relaxation

DOWN

1 Track circuits

2 "— Rhythm"

3 Emanation

4 Cookbook entry

5 Police officers

6 Kimono closer

7 Victory

8 Dilapidated

9 Subject of a framing?

10 Lotion additive

11 Antelope's playmate

16 Popular card game

20 "A mouse!"

22 Enraged

23 Leading man?

24 Charlotte's creation

25 Hosp. section

26 Dolphin's cousin

27 2/14 topic

29 Pitch

30 Blueprint addition

35 "Go, team!"

37 Grand — Dam

39 Hardly lively

40 Coffee

41 Church area

42 Take a gander (at)

43 "Scram!"

44 Zero, in Xochimilco

45 Uses a trowel

46 Giants lineman

49 Praise in verse

50 CSA soldier

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fergie, 39; Nathan Fillion, 43; Mariah Carey, 44; Pauley Perrette, 45.

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional matters stand between you and your success. Keep your budget in place and work hard to achieve your goals by using what you have. Offering your services in innovative ways will drum up business and help you achieve your goals. The slow-but-steady climb will be your best option. It's up to you to make things happen. Your numbers are 8, 14, 20, 29, 31, 34, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opening up to new activities or interests will do you a world of good. Getting to know someone through a different avenue will help you recognize where your relationship is heading and how to best prepare. Romance is highlighted. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make choices based on your intuitive insight. Someone may try to mislead you using charm or romantic gestures to win your support. Take the time to ask questions and run a background check to put your mind at ease. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Offering help might be misconstrued as meddling in other people's affairs. Avoid getting too close or personal with someone you do business with. Pay more attention to what's going on in your own personal life and make positive changes that will improve your relationships. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sign up for activities that help you expand your friendships and bring you pleasure. Sharing your knowledge, experience and memories will attract

someone who can open your mind to all sorts of interesting people, cultures and pastimes. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your emotions lead to financial loss. A fast-cash scheme may tempt you, but the stress and cost involved aren't worth it. Put your effort into having fun with the people you love as well as building a secure home base. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a look at new alternatives. Sometimes it pays to take an unorthodox approach to a problem or issue you face. Don't rule out any suggestion without giving it a fair chance. An unusual partnership will help broaden your outlook. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Share your thoughts and plans for the future. Taking steps that will bring about an upgrade mentally, physically or financially will pay off and bring in compliments. Romance is in the stars, and making positive lifestyle changes will lead to happiness. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the road less traveled and you will find all sorts of interesting options. Being creative and in touch with your feelings will help you make wise and happy choices. Make changes to your living quarters to encourage originality. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will face opposition. Uncertainty and confusion is likely to set in when dealing with a friend or colleague offering vague and confusing information. Don't make a decision until you feel satisfied with what's being said. Focus on home and family. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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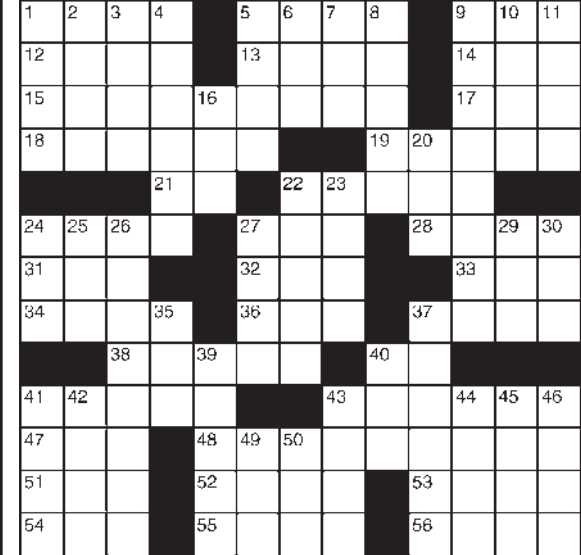
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An unexpected situation will arise. Communication is likely to be misconstrued, leading to a poor choice or mishap. Get all the facts and protect personal information that you feel may be used against you. Rely on past experience. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Offer a new twist to a service or skill you have, and you will find a way to bring in extra cash. Working at self-improvement will result in compliments as well as bringing a little love and romance into your life. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A group effort will pay off. Look for people sharing your concerns, interests or thoughts regarding an investment or service. Offer a strategy that will encourage others to join, thereby multiplying your chances to become a success. ***

Birthday Baby: You are smart and curious. You are experimental, trendy and progressive.

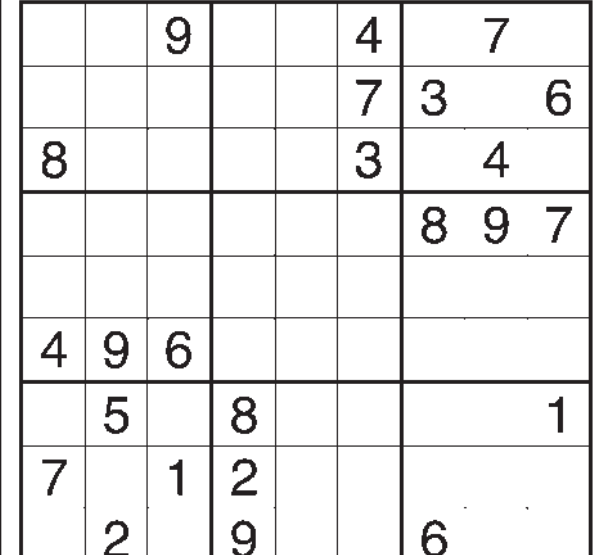
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SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 4 |
| 6 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 9 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MARC BY MARC JACOBS

Solution: 8 letters

E S E S S E R D D E T N I R P
S L E N O H P E S R U P E U E
T G Y V Y N O P O L O T L R W
N I N T R H G I F T A L U C A
O S E I S A A R N E O T A R L
I J I S R E C T W V X S S A L
H B A L S A I S E E E T H M E
S A C V E E R T L G L O N T
A E T G K E L W O N E E E E S
F T R S E R E R S E B S C E
W A B O A E T U V E S M A K V
O O A T T C U F F E T E R L O
O C H A I S A L E F E U C A L
L E I S N O I T C E L L O C G
R L G S B A R R E T T E S E A

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Yesterday's Answer: Hair

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Lakers drop 51 in 3rd quarter, blast Knicks, 127-96



LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Xavier Henry scored 22 points, Nick Young hit five 3-pointers while scoring 20 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers dropped a franchise-record 51 points in the third quarter of their 127-96 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Kent Bazemore scored 18 points as the Lakers won consecutive games for the first time in more than three weeks with a phenomenal offensive effort against the Knicks, who have lost two straight after an eight-game winning streak.

Knicks President Phil Jackson watched his new team and his former club from a luxury suite high above the court.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points for the Knicks, who couldn't stop the Lakers' patchwork roster from hitting 18 3-pointers in the opener of New York's five-game West Coast road trip.

Young hit five 3-pointers, and Jodie Meeks added four as Los Angeles finished one 3-pointer shy of the single-game club record.

With their postseason hopes hanging by a thread that gets thinner each day, the Knicks played the worst defensive quarter in the history of a franchise that once allowed Wilt Chamberlain to score 100 points. New York dropped three games behind Atlanta for the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Jackson's fiancée, Lakers executive Jeanie Buss, watched from the second row. The 11-time NBA champion coach arrived late at the building where he won five titles with the Lakers, who declined to re-hire him early last season, infuriating much of their fan base.

But the Lakers never had an offensive quarter under Jackson to match their 51-point effort for Mike D'Antoni, the former Knicks coach who got the Lakers' job over Jackson.

The Lakers stretched their eight-point halftime lead to 30 by making 19 of their 26 shots in the third, including six 3-pointers. Nine players contributed a field goal to the spree, including nine points from Chris Kaman in his first game action in March.

With Pau Gasol sidelined by vertigo, Kaman had 13 points and nine rebounds. Steve Nash also sat out for the 17th time in the Lakers' last 18 games.

Henry excelled despite a torn ligament in his left wrist, playing through the injury to his shooting hand.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 17 points and Amare Stoudemire had 16 in the Knicks' seventh straight road loss to the Lakers since 2007.

The Knicks also are assured of a losing season with their



Los Angeles Lakers forward Xavier Henry, right, dunks as New York Knicks guard Iman Shumpert defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in Los Angeles.

42nd loss, and the Hawks have two games in hand in the play-off race.

The Lakers missed 13 of their 18 shots in a 14-point first quarter, but they rolled off a 22-4 run in 5 1/2 minutes to open the second quarter. Los Angeles made 11 of its first 13 shots, and Anthony missed

his first seven shots for New York before a jumper late in the half.

Meeks and Jordan Hill then expanded the Lakers' lead with a 12-0 run early in the third, shredding the Knicks' defense from inside and out. Ryan Kelly's 3-pointer stretched Los Angeles' lead to 74-49 mid-

way through the quarter.

Mavericks 128, Thunder 119, OT

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored seven of his 32 points in overtime, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Nowitzki also had 10 re-

bounds and six assists. In Dallas' loss to Brooklyn on Sunday, he was 2 for 12 from the field in his worst shooting performance of the season.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 43 points. He has scored at least 25 in 36 consecutive games in the longest such streak since Michael Jor-

dan's 40-game run during the 1986-87 season.

Dallas had seven players score in double figures. Jose Calderon went 6 for 8 from 3-point range and finished with 22 points.

Russell Westbrook scored 23 for Oklahoma City. All of his points came in regulation, when he played 31:50. He added another minute in overtime.

Westbrook is limited to 30 to 32 minutes per game because of his oft-injured right knee.

The Mavericks scored the first five points of the extra period on two free throws by Nowitzki and a 3-pointer by Calderon. They never trailed again.

Cavaliers 102, Raptors 100

In Cleveland, Dion Waiters scored 24 points and Luol Deng added 19 as Cleveland prevented Toronto from getting closer to a playoff spot.

Dion Waiters scored 24 points and Luol Deng added 19 as the Cleveland Cavaliers prevented Toronto from getting closer to a playoff spot with a 102-100 win over the Raptors on Tuesday night.

The Cavs blew a 21-point lead, but made just enough plays down the stretch to snap a five-game losing streak at home.

They did it without All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving, who missed his fifth straight game with a strained biceps tendon.

Kyle Lowry scored 22 for the Raptors, who had a chance to tie it in the final seconds but guard Greivis Vasquez lost his footing and committed a turnover with 1.9 seconds left.

Toronto led 95-94 with 6:45 remaining, but went just 1 of 9 from the floor and scored five points the rest of the way.

Tristan Thompson added 15 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland.

Magic 95, Trail Blazers 85

In Orlando, Florida, Tobias Harris had 25 points and 11 rebounds as Orlando stopped a nine-game losing streak.

Nik Vucevic added 22 points and 10 boards for the Magic, who led by just eight at the half but used scoring spurts in the third and fourth quarters to put the game away. Victor Oladipo had 13 points and six assists.

Robin Lopez led Portland with 20 points and 13 rebounds.

The Blazers, who entered the night in fifth place in the West, have lost three straight. They were without forward LaMarcus Aldridge, who missed his seventh consecutive game with a lower back contusion.

The Magic closed the third quarter on an 11-2 run and increased their lead to 19 in the opening minutes of the fourth.

After 3 months apart, Heat, Pacers to meet again

MIAMI (AP)—Heat forward Chris Bosh has a confession: Games at this time of year simply mean more to him than games in December.

Not exactly shocking, of course.

But when so much hubbub surrounded the last game between Miami and Indiana way back on Dec. 18, Bosh wasn't necessarily buying into the supposed significance. After all, he figured, the season was basically only one-third over at that point.

The Heat and Pacers finally play again on Wednesday. And this time, Bosh knows the buzz is real.

"I know everybody's trying to make the games important back in December," Bosh said. "Well, now they're important."

The Eastern Conference race won't be decided on Wednesday night, but the pendulum is either going to swing toward Indiana moving considerably closer to the No. 1 seed or back toward the Heat and a chaotic, potentially down-to-the-wire finish. If the Pacers—who have been alone atop the East standings since Nov. 4—win, they would move three games clear of Miami in the East race. If the Heat prevail, the teams will be tied in the loss column.

And given that these teams



Miami Heat forward LeBron James (6) looks for an open teammate past Portland Trail Blazers guard Wesley Matthews, left, during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 24, 2014 in Miami.

don't like each other, plus have faced each other in extremely hard-fought series in each of the past two postseasons, this probably won't seem like just another regular-season game.

"Everybody's getting what they want," Bosh said.

Neither team is exactly rolling into this matchup. Both teams have lost seven of their last 12 games, meaning the Heat have missed plenty of chances to grab the No. 1 spot, and the Pacers have missed plenty of chances to wrap up home-court throughout the East playoffs.

"We're just not clicking," Pacers center Roy Hibbert said after his team lost at Chicago on Monday night. "And we should

be clicking."

The Heat beat Portland on Monday—squandering a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter before doing so—but that snapped a highly befuddling streak of missed Miami opportunities.

Before Monday, the Pacers had lost six games in March. And every time, the Heat either lost on the same night or in their next game, meaning a half-dozen chances to tighten up the East race were squandered.

"As many chances as we had, we kept playing with it, we were struggling, they were struggling, we had our chances," Bosh said. "We still have our chance with two showdowns with them."

True, Wednesday's isn't even the last Heat-Pacers meeting of this regular season. The teams square off in Miami on April 11.

This, though, might be the one that ultimately decides the East. If Miami falls three games out now—the Pacers will have only 10 games left after Wednesday—that could get the Heat to start thinking about how to rest certain players before the postseason begins. With Dwyane Wade in and out of the lineup often this season, Miami has used 18 starting lineups; the Pacers have used only three.

Wade hopes to play Wednesday. The Heat said he sat out Monday with an ankle issue; Wade clarified on Tuesday that it's actually a sore Achilles' tendon, but he was able to practice before the team flew to Indianapolis. And if the Heat can close the gap in the standings, that could be a springboard for the two-time defending champions, who face a slew of sub-.500 teams in the next couple weeks.

"It's coming down to a photo finish," Bosh said. "We have a unique opportunity. No matter what's happened this whole season, we're within striking distance. It's here and it'll be a great playoff atmosphere. I can't wait."

Dodgers top spender, ending Yanks' 15-year streak



NEW YORK
(AP) —
Zack

Greinke and the Los Angeles Dodgers have knocked Alex Rodriguez and the New York Yankees off baseball's payroll perch, part of an offseason spending spree that has the average salary approaching \$4 million for the first time.

The Dodgers are ending the Yankees' 15-year streak as baseball's biggest spenders and as of Tuesday had a projected payroll of \$235 million, according to study of all major league contracts by The Associated Press.

New York, which last failed to top the payroll rankings in 1998, was a distant second at \$203 million. After that, it was another huge gap to Philadelphia at \$180 million, followed by Boston at \$163 million and Detroit at \$162 million.

Houston is last at \$45 million, up from \$27 million at the start of last year, and Miami at \$48 million remains 29th.

Some large-market teams are among the smaller spenders, with the New York Mets and Chicago Cubs projected at \$89 million, ranked 22nd and 23rd.

Rodriguez, who holds the record for the largest deal in baseball history at \$275 million over 10 years, is suspended for the season for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. Because of the ban, he will earn only \$2,868,852 of his \$25 million salary—21 days pay for the 183-day season.

Greinke would have become the highest-paid player, even if



In this Monday, Feb. 10, 2014 file photo, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke throws during spring training baseball practice in Glendale, Ariz. AP

Rodriguez was getting all his cash. The pitcher has a \$24 million salary in the second season of his \$147 million, six-year contract, and because he can opt out of the deal after the 2015 season, baseball's accounting rules call for his \$12 million signing bonus to be prorated over the first three seasons.

"We've got great ownership and a great fan base, and we need to do what we can to win games," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said last week in Sydney, where Los Angeles swept its opening, two-game series against Arizona.

"I don't think the guys worry about it. I know we don't worry about it," Colletti said. "We're expected to win, and that's how we go about it. Money doesn't mean you win. Money just means you have a chance to get the best players."

As of Tuesday, the average salary projected to be between

\$3.95 million and \$4 million, with the final figure depending on how many players are put on the disabled list by the time opening-day rosters are finalized at 3 p.m. Sunday. That translates to a rise of 8 to 10 percent from last year's opening average of \$3.65 million and would be the largest increase since 2006 or possibly even 2001.

"I'm not surprised. With the type of revenues clubs are en-

joying these days, the average salaries are going to go up," New York Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said.

Illustrating the rate of escalation, the opening-day average was \$1.07 million when Derek Jeter first reached the major leagues in 1995, broke the \$2 million mark in 2001 and spurred past \$3 million in 2008.

"I think it's great. I think it just shows the game is growing, fan interest is there," said Jeter,

the Yankees captain who is retiring at the end of this season. "The business of baseball seems like it's booming pretty good right now."

The average U.S. wage in 2012 was \$42,498, according to the Social Security Administration, the latest figure available and an annual increase of 3.12 percent.

Following Greinke on the highest-paid list are Philadelphia's Ryan Howard and Cliff Lee at \$25 million, the Yankees' CC Sabathia at \$24.3 million, and Seattle's Robinson Cano and Texas' Prince Fielder at \$24 million each.

The AP's figures include salaries and prorated shares of signing bonuses and other guaranteed income for players on active rosters, disabled lists and the restricted list. For some players, parts of deferred money are discounted to reflect current values.

Payroll figures factor in adjustments for cash transactions in trades, signing bonuses that are the responsibility of the club agreeing to the contract, option buyouts, and termination pay for released players.

For instance, the Yankees are receiving \$18.6 million from the Los Angeles Angels to cover most of the \$21 million due to outfielder Vernon Wells, who has been released, and \$13 million from the Chicago Cubs to pay most of the \$18 million owed outfielder Alfonso Soriano. The Mets' payroll include buyouts to Johan Santana (\$4.9 million present value) and Jason Bay (\$2.7 million present value).



BUFFALO, N.Y.

(AP)—During his 95 years, Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson went from fan to "Foolish Club" member to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, enjoying every step along the way.

The NFL lost the person regarded as the league's "conscience" on Tuesday, when Wilson died at his home around 1:40 p.m. Bills president Russ Brandon announced Wilson's death at the NFL owners meetings in Orlando, Fla.

His death resonated among the owners—from old to new. Wilson played an integral role in establishing the modern game, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009.

In 1959, Wilson founded the Bills in helping establish the upstart American Football League, whose owners were dubbed "The Foolish Club" for having the chutzpah to challenge the NFL. Some five years later, Wilson played an influential role in the framework for the merger of the leagues.

"Ralph Wilson was a driving force in developing pro football into America's most popular sport," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Ralph al-

Bills owner Ralph Wilson dies at 95

ways brought a principled and common-sense approach to issues."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft released a statement saying how grateful he was for how Wilson welcomed him to the NFL, adding: "I will miss him."

So will Bills Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy, whom Wilson lured out of retirement to serve as the team's general manager from 2005-06.

"He wasn't my boss, he was my friend," Levy said. "Deeply saddened to hear about his passing. He meant so much to the game that both of us revered, and to the community of Buffalo and beyond. It's quite a loss, and he's going to be remembered so fondly by everyone who knew him."

The last surviving member of the original AFL owners, Wilson died at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich., said Mary Mazur, a spokeswoman for the Wayne County medical examiner's office. He had been receiving home hospice care.

Wilson had been in failing health since having hip surgery in 2011. Though he spent much of

his time at his home in suburban Detroit, he attended Hall of Fame induction weekends. He was a regular at Bills home games since founding the franchise, but had not been there since going to one game in 2010.

Wilson gave up daily oversight of the club on Jan. 1, 2013, when he relinquished the president's title to Brandon.

"No one loves this game more than Ralph Wilson," Brandon said. "It's very tough. What he's meant to the entire organization. He's our leader, our mentor our friend. How he loves his players and loved our community. Special guy. They just don't make them like Ralph Wilson."

Wilson earned a well-established reputation for loyalty to fans and the stands he took against franchise relocation.

Though he butted heads several times with late Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, it did not affect their friendship.

As Davis said in 2009: "There were a lot of guys saying (Steelers owner Dan) Rooney was the conscience. But certainly, Mr. Wilson was more of a con-

science of the league."

Wilson also earned the respect of his players.

Bills Hall of Fame running back Thurman Thomas struggled with his emotions when discussing Wilson.

"With Mr. Wilson's passing today, it hurts," Thomas said. "So I'm going to miss him, without a doubt. He used to call me his favorite son."

Wilson's Bills have never won a Super Bowl. They came close in the early 1990s, when the Levy-coached and Jim Kelly-quarterbacked teams won four consecutive AFC championships, but lost each time.

The Bills have not made the playoffs since 1999 and their 14-year postseason drought ranks as the NFL's longest active streak.

Running back Fred Jackson said Wilson's death provides the team new focus to end that drought.

"We want to continue to cement his legacy," Jackson said. "We want to honor him, and a great way to honor him is going out and winning a lot of football games."

Wilson never lost his sense of humor.

In 2010, with the Bills 0-5, Wilson began an interview with The Associated Press with an apology. "I want to apologize for this phone system," Wilson said, with a familiar chuckle. "It's almost as bad as my team."

The future of the team is now in the hands of Brandon and Wilson's second-in-command, Bills treasurer Jeffrey Littmann. For the meantime, the Bills are expected to be placed in a trust before eventually being sold.

Wilson expressed no interest of leaving the team to his family. He is survived by wife Mary, daughters Christy Wilson-Hofmann, who serves as a Bills consultant, and Edith Wilson. There's also niece Mary Owen, who serves on several NFL committees while working as the team's executive vice president of strategic planning.

Kelly has expressed interest in buying the franchise and has previously said he's assembled a group of investors.

Kelly's health, however, has become an issue this week. He is expected to have surgery for

a second time in a year following the recurrence of cancer that his wife described as aggressive and "starting to spread."

Buffalo Sabres owner Terry Pegula is also considered a candidate to purchase the Bills and keep them in Buffalo.

That doesn't remove the possibility of outside interests making offers and relocating the team to larger markets such as Los Angeles or nearby Toronto.

The Bills' future in Orchard Park is secure for the short term. The team negotiated a 10-year lease in December 2012 with the state and county to continue playing at Ralph Wilson Stadium.

The agreement includes a provision that essentially locks in the Bills through the first seven seasons. The franchise would have to pay \$400 million if it decides to leave before 2019. The team then has an option of buying out the remaining three years of the lease for \$28 million.

Under Wilson, the Bills produced 10 Hall of Famers, including himself and Smith. The others were Kelly, Levy, Thomas, O.J. Simpson, offensive linemen Billy Shaw and Joe DeLamielleure, receiver James Lofton and receiver Andre Reed, who will be inducted this year.

Pistorius expected to testify at his murder trial

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Oscar Pistorius will probably testify at his trial later this week, a defense attorney said Tuesday after prosecutors rested their case against the double-amputee runner who is accused of murder in his girlfriend's death.

In a rare public comment, Pistorius said he was going through "a tough time" as the case advanced.

"We've got a lot ahead of us," he told reporters after the court adjourned.

Defense lawyer Brian Webber said Pistorius is "likely" to take the stand to open the defense case.

"I don't think we have a choice. It's a question of when," Webber said of Pistorius' testimony, which legal experts

describe as critical because the judge will have a chance to assess firsthand whether he is credible. The case will be decided by Judge Thokozile Masipa with help from two assessors. South African courts do not have a jury system.

After the prosecution rested, defense lawyer Barry Roux asked for time to consult some of the 107 state witnesses who had not testified against Pistorius, who admits shooting Reeva Steenkamp through the closed door of a toilet cubicle last year.

Masipa adjourned the trial until Friday so Roux could prepare his arguments that Pistorius killed the 29-year-old model by accident, thinking she was an intruder in his home.

Pistorius has sometimes reacted emotionally in the court-



Oscar Pistorius leaves the high court in Pretoria, South Africa, Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

room. He shed tears this week during testimony about text messages that he and Steenkamp exchanged in the weeks before her death on Feb. 14, 2013. In earlier testimony, he retched and

vomited at a pathologist's description of Steenkamp's gunshot wounds. At other times, he has appeared calm, taking notes during testimony and conferring with his lawyers during breaks.

The 27-year-old Olympian once basked in global publicity stemming from his achievements on the track but became an almost silent, somewhat cryptic figure after Steenkamp's death, his account only outlined in legal statements that were carefully tailored by his high-powered legal team.

Earlier Tuesday, Roux sought to show that Pistorius had a loving relationship with his girlfriend, referring to telephone messages in which they exchanged warm compliments and said they missed each other.

The testimony contrasted with several messages read in court a day earlier in which Pistorius and Steenkamp argued, part of the prosecution's effort to demonstrate that the athlete killed his girlfriend after an in-

tense disagreement. In those messages, Steenkamp told the runner that she was sometimes scared by his behavior, which included jealous outbursts in front of other people.

Roux noted that the tense messages amounted to a tiny fraction of the roughly 1,700 texts that police Capt. Francois Moller, a cellphone expert, extracted from the couple's mobile devices. Roux noted a Jan. 19 exchange in which Reeva sent Pistorius a photo of herself in a hoodie and making a kissing face and asked, "You like it?"

"I love it," Pistorius said, according to the message.

"So warm," Steenkamp responded.

Roux was also granted permission to show video broadcast by Sky News that showed Pistorius and Steenkamp kissing in a convenience store.

Chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel questioned the relevance of the store video, saying he could ask for a courtroom viewing of another video, also broadcast by Sky News, which shows Pistorius at a gun range, firing a shotgun and using a pistol to shoot a watermelon, which bursts on impact.

COMETS

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teamed up for the last out.

The Comets also had an opportunity to end the game earlier when they loaded the bases at the bottom of the 17th with two outs, but Rejay Iskawa flied out to leftfield.

The 19-inning game could be the longest in CNMI Little League history, according to SLLB, Inc. president Tony Rogolifoi. *Saipan Tribune* contacted former CNMI District Administrator James Ada to confirm the record, but have yet to get a response at press time last night.

Enforcers 7, Jets 2

The Enforcers (9-1) returned to the field last Sunday and regrouped quickly after beating the Jets.

The Enforcers finished strong, scoring five runs in the last two innings to bring down the Jets (3-6). The game was tied, 2-all, after five complete innings before Jordan Kosam put the Enforcers in the lead with his RBI single. Kosam also reached home off a Jets error, while Shakobe Rangamar gave the team a 5-2 lead. Two more unearned runs at the top of the seventh game the Enforcers more breathing room and they kept the lead after a 1-2-3 at the bottom.

Falcons 3, Comets 1

The Comets failed to keep their momentum after the marathon win over the Enforcers, bowing to the Falcons in a low-scoring game.

The Falcons scored in the last two innings to edge the Comets. Kody Omengkar, who logged the Falcons first run at the top of the first off Don Fejeran's single, also recorded the team's second run off a passed ball in the sixth inning to break the deadlock.

The Comets forced a stand-off at the bottom of the first with Hocog blasting an RBI single and the match remained tied after five innings. The drought continued for the

Comets in the last two innings, as they had two runners stranded in the sixth and one in the seventh. Earlier at the top of the seventh, Ace Evangelista scored off a Comets I error.

Red Sox 8, Fielders 7

In the third Junior League game last Sunday, the Red Sox nosed out the Fielders.

The Red Sox racked up three runs at the top of the last inning to break a tie and held strong on defense at the bottom to eke out the close win.

Leadoff batter Raymond Agulto put the Red Sox on top, 6-5, scoring off a wild pitch at the top of the seventh. Tindin Leon Guerrero made it a 7-5

advantage when he reached off a sacrifice out, while an RBI single from Chebo Leon Guerrero gave the defending champions more cushion, going into the last inning.

The Red Sox got two early outs at the bottom of the seventh, but failed to close out the match early, as Kimo Angailen kept the Fielders' hopes alive with his run off a passed ball. An RBI single from Jaden Tenorio moved the Fielders closer. Tenorio went on to advance to second, while another runner was at third, but both were stranded as Red Sox second baseman Jonah Reyes picked up a line drive for the last out.

TWO

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60 delegates.

"I am in contact with United and waiting for their response before we make the decision, hopefully by this weekend. There are no extra flights opened for the Games, so even if we submitted our entries way back in December, some teams were going to be left out anyways because of lack of seats and flights. But then again, United runs a business and I

don't want to prejudge their decision. I am pretty sure they had put a lot of thought into the matter leading into their decision," Rangamar said.

Rangamar and other officials were repeatedly informed of the need to secure airline seats early in NMASA's previous meetings. About two weeks ago, White, through an email, said "for those countries/federations for which United is holding seats, the deadline for deposits is today (March 14). If deposits are not made, that will free up seats for other countries/fed-

erations which don't have seats yet. If you don't have seats, you should follow up with Sally Malay as soon as possible, and no later than Monday (March 17)."

Saipan Tribune learned that United Airlines is charging \$678 per person plus taxes (\$7.50 and \$86.50, which are subject to change) and federations with big delegations are struggling to find funds for the airfare. *Saipan Tribune* also checked online reservations and although seats are still available after July 18, the airfare is between \$900 and \$1,600. The 2014

Micronesian Games will run from July 20 to 29.

Besides the airfare, CNMI delegates also need to pay the \$50 per diem to the organizing committee. The per diem charges do not cover the delegates' meals if they are forced to fly early to Pohnpei and stay there for another week (the longest) once the Games has been completed.

"There is a possibility that some seats on the 16th and 18th may become available if those holding those seats do not meet United Airlines' payment

schedule. Our teams which do not now have confirmed seats may choose to fly on the 14th, or they may decide not to go. The Games Organizing Committee is telling us that, because of the situation, they will open the Games Village on the 14th, but for sleeping accommodations only. Teams will be on their own as far as food is concerned until the Games Village Cafeteria opens," White said.

"NMASA is hopeful that all of our remaining teams will be able to participate in the Games," he added.

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course—the 2.5K—and bested nine others in the boys 13 to 14 age group after tallying 35:18. Joining Kento in the Top 3 were Manukai's Alexander Gonzales (35:34) and Tsunami Saipan's Kaito Yanai (35:38).

Kaito's younger sibling, Ryuto, prevailed in the boys 9 to 10's 1K race after completing the one-loop course in 15:05 and topping SSC's Lennosuke Suzuki (15:07) and Tsunami Guam's Chucky White (17:37). Tsunami Saipan's second first place finish was courtesy of Nanaka Watanabe, who ruled the girls U8 600m swim with her 13:21. She outclassed team-

mate Ashley Dangol (15:02) and SSC's Jinie Thompson (17:15).

In the 11 to 12's 1.3K race, Manhoben and Tsunami Guam split top honors. Manhoben's Miner Gomez clocked in at 21:17 to finish ahead of Tsunami Guam's Leivani Koiwa (21:27) and Tsunami Saipan's Miku Tammy (21:28). In the boys division, Tsunami Guam's James Hedrix submitted 19:02 to edge Manhoben's Santiago Poppe (19:14) and teammate Caleb White (19:17).

Tsunami Guam's two other top finishers came in the longest race of the day, the 2.5K, with Hannah White and Emma Rione winning their respective age group. White recorded

36:30 in the girls 13 to 14 division to triumph over Manhoben's Amanda Poppe (40:00) and teammate Katelee McCormic (44:34). In the girls 15 to 19 division, Rione timed in at 35:43 to dethrone SSC's Victoria Chentsova. The SSC bet may have dropped to second place, but her 35:53 was better than her winning time last year (36:10).

Still in the 15 to 19 age group, Manhoben's Tommy Imazu lorded it over against 11 other swimmers after completing the two-loop race in 35:00. He foiled Tsunami Guam's bid for first place, winning over Soujyu Usui (35:15) and Keigo Kitadate (35:16).

Meanwhile, 36 adult swim-

mers completed the 2.5K race with Carol Lynn Pierce and Vener Urena posting the fastest times in the women's and men's divisions, respectively. Urena clocked in at 44:42 to win the men's 40 to 49 age group, while Pierce also made the 50-minute barrier with her 49:44 and topped the 50 to 59 age group.

Other first place finishers in their respective age groups were Kaitlin Mattos (56:02), Shawna Brennfleck (52:19), Brad Ruszala (49:13), Kimiko McKagan (1:03:35), Ron Gonzales (50:02), and Joshua Berger (56:36).

In the adults' 1.3K race, the top finishers were Aleksandra Doroukskikh (25:27), Yurie Lorange (29:30), Bruce Lo-

range (34:42), Colin Thompson (21:30), Kaoru Takahashi (27:19), Mary Cisler (40:41), and Mark Staal (23:58).

Last Sunday's ocean swim capped SSC's hosting of a three-day competition. The club had its international swim meet last Friday at Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"On behalf of Saipan Swim Club, thank you; *si yu'us ma'ase; ghillisow; shieh shieh; domo arigato; mesulang, and kommol* for your participation, encouragement, and support. We look forward to seeing you all again and hopefully more swimmers and participants next year," SSC president Robert Torres said in an email to the participating teams.

| TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|------|-----|
| NBA STANDINGS | | | | |
| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Atlantic Division | | | | |
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 39 | 31 | .557 | — |
| Brooklyn | 37 | 32 | .536 | 1½ |
| New York | 29 | 42 | .408 | 10½ |
| Boston | 23 | 47 | .329 | 16 |
| Philadelphia | 15 | 56 | .211 | 24½ |
| Southeast Division | | | | |
| x-Miami | 48 | 21 | .696 | — |
| Washington | 36 | 34 | .514 | 12½ |
| Charlotte | 34 | 37 | .479 | 15 |
| Atlanta | 31 | 38 | .449 | 17 |
| Orlando | 20 | 52 | .278 | 29½ |
| Central Division | | | | |
| x-Indiana | 51 | 20 | .718 | — |
| Chicago | 40 | 31 | .563 | 11 |
| Cleveland | 28 | 44 | .389 | 23½ |
| Detroit | 26 | 44 | .371 | 24½ |
| Milwaukee | 13 | 58 | .183 | 38 |
| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | |
| Southwest Division | | | | |
| x-San Antonio | 54 | 16 | .771 | — |
| Houston | 48 | 22 | .686 | 6 |
| Memphis | 42 | 28 | .600 | 12 |
| Dallas | 43 | 29 | .597 | 12 |
| New Orleans | 30 | 40 | .429 | 24 |
| Northwest Division | | | | |
| Oklahoma City | 52 | 19 | .732 | — |
| Portland | 45 | 27 | .625 | 7½ |
| Minnesota | 34 | 35 | .493 | 17 |
| Denver | 32 | 39 | .451 | 20 |
| Utah | 23 | 48 | .324 | 29 |
| Pacific Division | | | | |
| L.A. Clippers | 50 | 21 | .704 | — |
| Golden State | 44 | 27 | .620 | 6 |
| Phoenix | 42 | 29 | .592 | 8 |
| Sacramento | 25 | 45 | .357 | 24½ |
| L.A. Lakers | 24 | 46 | .343 | 25½ |
| x-clinched playoff spot | | | | |
| BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS | | | | |

36th Annual Saipan Ocean Swim

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Participants in the 36th Annual Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim pose for a group photo before heading to the waters off the Saipan World Resort last Sunday morning.



Saipan Swim Club president Robert Torres briefs swimmers about the course.



Swimmers gather at the shore waiting for the start of their respective races.



The third wave of swimmers head to the course.



A male swimmer takes time before plunging into the water to join the rest of the participants.



Two young swimmers are neck and neck as they get out of the water.



Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield signals David Boyer to head to cross the finish line.



A young swimmer sprint to the finish line.



Three swimmers pose for a photo while waiting for completion of the rest of the race.



Volunteers guide swimmers along the course.



Lakers drop 51 in
3rd quarter, blast
Knicks, 127-96

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Dodgers top
spender,
ending Yanks'
15-year streak
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28 THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Comets nip Enforcers in 19-inning game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It took the Comets 19 innings to put away the JPO Enforcers, 7-6, during a continuation game in the Junior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Thanks to Kobe Santos' base hit, the extended match finally ended. Santos' single at the bottom of the 19th inning drove Lorenzo Sebaklim home. Sebaklim led off for the Comets and advanced to first off an Enforcers' error at centerfield. He then made it to third after second batter Austin Hocog singled, but was stuck there in the ensuing play, as Aurel Mendiola flied out at second. Santos was next at bat and made the game-winning hit.



was first played on March 1 and ended in a deadlock after 13 innings. The match resumed last Saturday after the three Senior League games were completed and it still took about two hours for the game to be completed.

The Enforcers had a chance to nail the go-ahead run at the top of the 16th inning with Ethan Babauta reaching third base with two outs, but Comets pitcher Aurel Mendiola and first baseman Austin Indalecio

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141 join SSC Ocean Swim

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 36th Annual Saipan Swim Club Ocean Swim had a huge turnout, as 141 swam in the waters off the Saipan World Resort last Sunday morning.

This year's number of participants surpassed the 2013 record (119), as the Marshall Islands' Kwajalein Swim Club, Guam's Manukai Athletics Club, Manhoben Swim Club, Tsunami Guam, and Andersen Marlins, and three Palau swimmers joined the SSC, Tsunami Saipan, and other local tankers in the weekend race.

As for the results, the host

club and Tsunami Guam went on to take the most first place honors (three each) in the youth races.

Taiyo Akimaru led SSC's 1-2-3 finish in the boys U8 600m swim after timing in at 12:42. Teammate Jonnusuke Suzuki and Leo Takahashi clocked in at 12:54 and 13:26, respectively. Conatsu Kaga gave SSC its second first place finish in the youth division as

her 17:55 in the girls 9 to 10's 1K race defeated the 17:56 of Tsunami Saipan's Sophia Gauran and Aika Watanabe's 18:21. Taiyo's older brother, Kento swam the longest

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Comets pitcher hurls from the mound during their first round game against Falcons in the Junior League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Comets met the Falcons anew last Sunday and lost, 1-3, a day after pulling off a 19-inning 7-6 win over the JPO Enforcers.

Two teams beg off from '14 Micro Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's number of delegates to the 2014 Micronesian Games could go down as tennis and volleyball decided not to compete, while three other sports federations have yet to secure airline seats.

"Some of our teams have confirmed seats to Pohnpei. Others do not. United [Airlines] is telling us that it will not operate any extra sections, and will not have any aircraft available for charter, which means that, at the present time, there are no seats available to Pohnpei after July 14, as flights on the 16th and 18th are fully booked," Northern Marianas

Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Only swimming, baseball, weightlifting, and spearfishing have made reservations with United Airlines. While tennis and volleyball are officially out, athletics and basketball are still

communicating with the airline company

and will make their final decision at the end of this month. The local canoe federation is also not on the list of associations that made reservations with United Airlines and has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* email, asking for the group's final decision about the Micro Games. The nine federations had earlier confirmed their participation in the



White

resources to other off-island tournaments this year," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association official and CNMI coach Jeff Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Race finished third in the men's singles event in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, while teammates Todd Montgomery and Peter Loyola took

quadrennial tournament, bringing the CNMI's initial number of delegates to 173.

"Tennis is not going to Pohnpei. We decided to put our

resources to other off-island tournaments this year," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association official and CNMI coach Jeff Race said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

the gold and silver. The Commonwealth also had a women's team in Palau with singles gold medalist Kana Aikawa leading the squad. Joining her on the team were Lydia Tan, Mayuko Arriola, and Jodel Fernandez, and together with the men's squad, the CNMI bets collected four gold medals, four silver, and four bronze medals in Palau.

Athletics also gave the CNMI a lot of medals (13 golds, 5 silvers, and 7 bronzes) in 2010, while basketball won a silver (women's division).

Northern Marianas Athletics and Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands official Elias Rangamar said that combining basketball and athletics teams translates to about

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Swimmers competing in the 2.5-kilometer swim head to the waters off Saipan World Resort during last Sunday's 36th Annual SSC Ocean Swim.